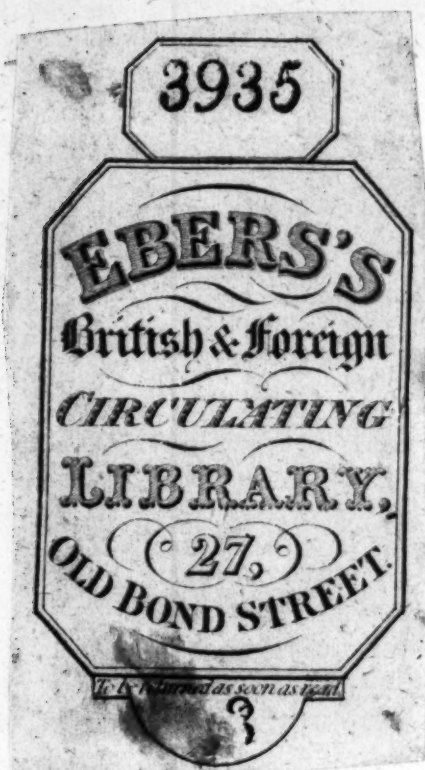


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THE  
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OR,  
INNOCENT IMPOSTOR.



C H A P. XXIX.

**I**N the Afternoon, the young Lady shewed the Officers a Portrait of a most agreeable Gentleman, whose Age, in Appearance, could not be above one and twenty; requesting the Favour of knowing if any of the Company could recollect their having seen that Face before, either in this Kingdom, or in their Travels abroad. Captain *Mead* observed, on viewing the Picture with some Attention, that a Captain in *Pepper's* Regiment, whose Name was *Lewis*, seemed in his Opinion to bear a near Resemblance to it. She then proceeded,

Gentlemen, I fear the Freedom taken, in producing the Portrait you have just seen, and the Question asked, may induce you to conceive some disadvantageous Opinions to the Prejudice of my Virtue and Reputation; yet am confident, were you acquainted with my true Reasons for so doing, I should not only share your Pity, but stand acquitted of any Imputation of Levity.

They all declared, how foreign any such Thoughts were from their Breasts; and joined in begging, if her Misfortunes were of such a Nature as might be communicated to Strangers, and capable of Redress, she would relate the Cause thereof, and what could occasion that Flood of Tears which then burst like a Torrent from her Eyes, as she ended; assuring her, that this Request did not proceed from mere Curiosity, but, on the contrary, with a real Design of rendering all the Services in their Power. As soon as the violent Agitation this Discourse had occasioned was a little subsided, she genteely returned

turned Thanks for their generous Offers; and, at the same Time, said, no human Assistance could either remove her Sorrows, or alleviate her Grief, till the dear Original of the Picture should be found, or heard of; adding, it would be impossible to comply with their Request, without entering into a tedious and tiresome Detail of her Family, Circumstances, and many other trifling Particulars, which might seem troublesome and impertinent to them, and take up too much of their Time: But, on Assurances they should not think so, she obligingly began as follows.

My Father was descended from a reputable Family of the *Winningtons*, in *Gloucestershire*; though I have heard him say, the elder Branch is originally of the adjoining County of *Worcestershire*; where they still enjoy an opulent Estate. He served an Apprenticeship to a Surgeon and Apothecary in the City of *Gloucester*, after which, he went to *London*, to improve himself in his Business, having little else to depend upon. He



#### 4 The SUPPOSED DAUGHTER<sub>3</sub>

continued three Years there, as a Pupil to the first Surgeon of St. *Bartholomew's* Hospital, whose Wife was a Relation of my Mother's. She happening to come to Town on some Affairs, staid the Winter with her Aunt; in which Time, a Particular Friendship, Love and Esteem commenced between my Father and Mother, and they were married, with the general Consent of Relations. She was in Possession of a Freehold Estate of Inheritance of about seventy Pounds a Year, and intituled to above sixteen hundred Pounds in Money; but the last was entirely lost, by the Villany of her Guardian, who became a Bankrupt, while my Father was suing him for her Fortune. This unlucky Accident induced them to leave *London* (where he had before Thoughts of settling) and come to reside on her Farm, in a Village near *Salisbury*, which then became vacant by the Death of the late Tenant. They fitted up the House handsomely, let the greatest Part of the Land, and he carried



ed on his Profession with an unblemished Reputation.

They thought themselves happy, and were really so, in the true conjugal Affection. I was their last Child, and am the only one out of seven that survived them. Though they were both passionately fond of me, at eight Years old, I was sent to a *French* Boarding-School, where I remained almost Five Years. On my Return, the Proficiency I had made in that Language, in Dancing, Music and Needlework, was exceedingly agreeable to them. As my Father's Business often called him to the Houses of some Nobility, and most of the neighbouring Gentry, my Mother was always well received by their Ladies, and she seldom visited without taking me along with her. The chief of those who had Daughters of my Age, would frequently insist on her permitting me to spend a Week or a Fortnight with them. As she had consented to my so doing with some, it was difficult to refuse others, for fear of disobliging them;

6      THE SUPPOSED DAUGHTER;

and by this Means, I may with Truth venture to say, I was much more abroad than at home; till my Mother was seized with a lingering Disease, which, in the End, proved fatal.

The irreparable Loss of such an indulgent Parent, threw me into a severe Fit of Illness. But Heaven seemed to spare my Life this Time only to make me undergo severer Trials and Afflictions. My Father's Grief was inconsolable, and from that Instant he left off Practice; nor did he stir out of the House for above Twelve Months, or see any Company, except the poor Diseased, to whom he continued to give Advice and Medicines *Gratis*.

Two Years after my Mother's Decease, a neighbouring young Gentleman, just come of Age, and made High Sheriff of the County, publickly made his Addresses to me; having, without my Knowledge, obtained my Father's Consent to his Visits—His Fortune was large, and Person agreeable, in the Eyes of most of our Sex—With these Advan-

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OF, INNOCENT IMPOSTOR.

9

vantages, he apprehended it was impossible a Country Girl, in my Situation, could withstand such Temptations; especially, as he made his Appearance in a Coach and Six: Of this I was convinced by his Behaviour, the first Time he came to our House; for he no sooner entered the Room where I was, but he threw his Arms round my Waist, rudely swearing, I was a lucky Girl, to have a tight young Fellow, with a Coach and Six, and Four Thousand a Year, thus to drop into my Mouth—Are you not, *Sally*? added he. — Come, what say'st thou, my Girl, when shall it be? I must be answered, or, perhaps—Well, I'll say no more—But I think you have bewitched me, you Jade you.

I replied, Sir, to give you a particular Instance how willing I am to oblige, I give this speedy Answer, and faithfully promise never to become your Wife; and further beg Leave to assure you, I'll receive no more of your Visits at home, or stay five Minutes in any Place you shall honour with your Pre-

8      The SUPPOSED DAUGHTER;

fence; then made a low Curtsey, and retired, before he could make any Return. This, Gentlemen, as well as my Memory will serve me, was every Word that passed between us then; tho' I should have observed, I had frequently seen him in the best Company, and twice happened to be his Partner in Country Dances.

In a Conversation with my Father, he loudly complained of the great Indignity with which his Passion and honourable Proposals had been treated; adding a Kind of Threat at taking Leave, by insinuating, unless he would prevail on me to receive him in a more becoming Manner, he should lay aside all Thoughts of proceeding in an Affair which tended chiefly to my Advantage, Honour and Advancement.

Although, without Dispute, my Father would have been pleased to have seen me married to a Gentleman of his Fortune, yet, when I had truly informed him of his Address and Behaviour, he not only approved, but commend-  
ed



ed the proper Disdain and Resentment I had shewed.

For more than a Week, he constantly passed our Door two or three Times a Day, either in his Coach, or on Horseback, without stopping. One Morning he happened to meet my Father, about a Mile from home, and accosted him with, A good Morrow, Doctor: since Accident has presented this Opportunity, pray let us have one half Hour's Talk by ourselves. He consenting, they both alighted, and walked from the Road into an adjacent Field, out of the Hearing of the Servants. The Squire began the Discourse, by asking my Father, if he was not surprised and concerned, that he made so little Use of the Liberty given him of visiting his Daughter? My Father replied, Indeed, Sir, I am truly sensible of the Honour you intended my Girl, but her Reasons for refusing so advantageous a Match must not be determined by me; nor will I endeavour to put the least Force on her Inclinations; be-

ing satisfied, that no Consideration could induce her to alter her Condition, without my Knowledge and Consent.

The Squire replied, with some Heat, Why sure, Doctor, you are as mad as your Daughter, whose Pride, I expected, before now, would have been humbled, and that you, by Prudence and Advice, had reduced her to an Obedience to your Will: However, let her know my Resentment is now quite over, and that I will be at your House before Eleven To-morrow. My Father promised to deliver his Message, which he did, and seemed a little inclinable I should receive him: Yet, on Assurance I could never be happy with a Man of his Disposition, but, on the contrary, miserable, he was prevailed on to give me Leave to retire early in the Morning to the House of a particular Friend and Acquaintance, near fifteen Miles from us.

The Squire came according to Appointment, and was violently angry, on being told I was gone some Distance from  
home,

home, to spend a Fortnight or three Weeks with some Ladies, who had engaged my Promise before. He damned the ladies, me, and my Father; swore it was a Contrivance to affront and abuse him; behaved in an outrageous Manner, and stepped into his Coach, muttering Curses and Threatenings together.

My Father and I conceived great Hopes we had entirely got rid of an embarrassing Affair; but it happened otherwise; for he renewed his Design the Day after my Return Home. However, he was not admitted to see me, nor, indeed, in any Visit he made afterwards. This obliged him to have Recourse to Letters, which were always sent back unopened: Notwithstanding which, I underwent a Persecution of more than six Months, the Particulars of which are so disagreeable to relate, that they would only give me Pain in doing of it, and you the Trouble of hearing several base, injurious Actions, so far beneath the Dignity of a Gentleman, as, I am persuaded, none but the most wick-

ed, infamous, and abandoned of his Sex; would have dared to commit. However, soon after, I was providentially delivered from my Sufferings, by his marrying a young Lady, who had nothing but her Quality for her Fortune. She, I have heard, by the Advice of her Mother, who was an artful, intriguing, reduced Widow, readily embraced the first Overture he made.

Excuse me, Gentlemen, for trespassing on your Patience thus long with Matters, though trifling in themselves, yet necessary to be known, before I proceed farther in my unhappy Story; which, although I propose to do with the greatest Brevity, yet fear I must either prove troublesome, or omit many material Circumstances.

On the Day I entered into my eighteenth Year, my Father invited some Friends and Neighbours to our House, with a Design of celebrating my Birthday, in a gay and chearful Manner; having provided Music to attend a proposed Ball in the Evening. We all dined



ed below, and when Dinner was over, the Ladies retired with me up Stairs, where I was to give them some Tunes on my Harpsichord, which two of the young Ladies were to accompany with their Voices; and as we were standing at the Window, which fronted the Road, agreeing on what Piece of Music we should begin with, at that Instant, the Gentleman, whose Picture you have seen, attended by a Black Servant, was galloping by: He looked up and bowed, but before he could replace his Hat, his Horse fell, and tumbled over him.

We all screamed out, verily believing the Gentleman was killed. My Father was in the Parlour with his Company over a Bottle, and seeing the Accident, immediately ran out to his Assistance. He found one of his Legs broke, a Shoulder dislocated, besides a deep Cut over one of his Eye-brows; this last he apprehended dangerous, it having deprived him of his Senses. As Humanity was a sufficient Inducement to my  
Fa-

14      THE SUPPOSED DAUGHTER;

Father to take proper Care of him, he caused the Gentleman to be brought in, stopped the Effusion of Blood, and dressed the Wound in his Forehead; and when he came to himself, put his Shoulder in, and set his Leg; then ordered a warm Bed to be prepared as soon as possible, to which the Gentleman being conveyed, he made many Acknowledgements for the Favours he had received, and the next Morning seemed tolerably easy. He then acquainted my Father that his Name was *Hudson*, and that by the Decease of his Father, when he was an Infant, he became possessed of several Estates and Plantations in *Jamaica*; that he had received his Education in *England*, though he had spent the last four Years in making the Tour of *Europe*; that it was two Months since his Arrival at *Bristol*, where he had been to settle Accounts with a Merchant of that City, to whom all his *West-India* Returns had been constantly consigned. In consequence of which, he had received the Ballance,  
amount-

amounting to near Seven Thousand Pounds, for which Sum he had procur'd Bank Bills, which were now in his Pocket-Book, and requested my Father that he would take the charge of them till he recovered, which he consenting to, locked them up, after casting up the Amount. As no Fever attended this disastrous Event, in about three Weeks he was permitted to rise from his Bed; during which Time, my Father and he conversed together daily, and seem'd pleas'd with each other's Company.

Mr. *Hudson* having heard me frequently play on the Harpsichord, expressed a Desire of seeing me, and my Cousin, who was much about my own Age, and who had been sent for out of *Gloucestershire*, to be my Bedfellow and Companion, soon after the Commencement of the Squire's troublesome Affair.

My Father readily assented, and introduced us the following Afternoon, when Mr. *Hudson* received us with great Politeness: was extremely complaisant and enter-



16      The SUPPOSED DAUGHTER;

entertaining, and, at our Request, obligingly began a Relation of his Travels, from his landing at *Calais*. He gave a Description of that Place, the Manners and Genius of the People, and whatever else was either curious or remarkable there, or in any of the other Towns he visited, in a two Months Progress in *France* and *French Flanders*, before he reached *Paris*. At the Close of which, my Cousin and I paid our Compliments, and retired, being persuaded, that we had already trespassed too much on his Good-nature, by requesting a Favour, which must necessarily be attended with too great an Expence of Spirits in his Situation. But before we quitted the Room (rightly guessing our Reason for leaving it) he complaisantly promised to fulfil the Injunctions we had laid on him, the next Day, if we would be so good as to honour him with our Company. I shall not trouble you with what passed between ourselves, after leaving the Room; but shall only observe, what my Cousin was a little chagrined at.

his



his paying something of a particular Deference to me; nor will I deny how much the natural Vanity of my Sex was pleased and flattered by the same Observation.

Upon hearing me at my Harpsichord in the Morning, after Breakfast, he sent one of his Attendants, with his Compliments to us both, begging the Favour that we would permit the Dining-Room Door to remain open while we played, for that as his Chamber joined to ours, he might be the better enabled to enjoy the Pleasure of our Harmony. We consented: and I presently began a Piece of *Corelli's*, and was greatly surprised about five Minutes afterwards, at hearing a *German Flute* joining in Concert. When we left off, my Cousin and I had a Dispute, whether it was the Master or Servant who had played, she being strongly of Opinion it was the latter; as I, on the contrary, believed it to be the former. Her Reasons, she said, were grounded on seeing the Black with some Music Books and a Flute in  
his

his Hands a little before. While we were disputing, the Attendant returned with another Message from Mr. *Hudson*, to let us know, if it would be agreeable to continue half an Hour where we were, that he would endeavour to divert us with some new *French* Airs, which he apprehended had not yet been performed in *England*. We replied, we should think ourselves obliged thereby, provided it was not fatiguing to himself. He played a considerable Time, and, to do him Justice, must acknowledge he was the most masterly Hand I had ever heard on that Instrument.

In the Afternoon, we complimented him upon it, and returned Thanks for the Favour. He did the same on his Part, but confessed himself at a loss to know where properly to direct his Thanks and Compliments, being ignorant which of us Ladies had given him so much Delight. At these Words, I plainly perceived a Flushing in my Cousin's Face, and, without satisfying his Curiosity, reminded him of his Promise.

mise. He asked Pardon, and instantly proceeded, by giving us Picturesque Descriptions of the superb Magnificence of the *French* King; the surprising Grandeur of the Princes and Princesses of the Blood, extraordinary Splendor of the Cardinals, Noblesse, Marshals, and Officers of State, &c. and indeed, of that Spirit of Profusion and Dress, that so conspicuously appear throughout the Military, and all Degrees of Courtiers, who compose the numerous and brilliant Court of *France*. *Versailles*, with all its beautiful Gardens, Water-works, Fountains, Walks, Statues, and Embellishments, created a kind of pleasing Amazement. He likewise so fully described the public Edifices, Palaces, and Churches of *Paris*, together with whatever was worthy of Notice in that great Metropolis, that it was quite late in the Evening before he concluded.

At our taking Leave, he gave Assurances, that, altho' he had detained us so long in the last-mentioned City, on the Morrow he would take us by the Hand,

20      The SUPPOSED DAUGHTER;

Hand, and lead us to the Imperial City of *Vienna*, and from thence over the *Alps*, through the several Sovereignties, Dominions, and States of *Italy*, till he brought us to the antient and famous City of *Rome*, from whence, he proposed to conduct us homewards, and by the Way, would take in *Switzerland*, and the delightful South of *France*; and then by a Circuit, we should have an Opportunity of visiting the two Capitals of *Spain* and *Portugal*, and many other Towns of Note as we passed. The pleasing Expectation of hearing what was in itself new to us, induced our Attendance to his Room, as soon as Dinner was over the next Day, and it took up that and two others before he had finished. I will not take upon me to mention any Particulars, yet must say, he agreeably performed his Promise, without those Liberties which Travellers commonly allow themselves. Upon the whole, his Relation was polite and engaging; being intermixed with many diverting Stories, just



just Observations, and instructive Reflexions.

I shall here take the Liberty of a short Digression. My Cousin had some Months received the Addresses of a young yeoman Farmer, in extraordinary good Circumstances, whose Suit was approved of, and encouraged by my Father, as he believed it an advantageous Match for his Niece, her Lover having proposed settling a Jointure of eighty Pounds a Year, altho' her Fortune amounted to no more than four Hundred. All Matters were concluded on between them, before the Arrival of the Stranger at our House, except naming the Day for solemnizing the Wedding, which the Lover frequently pressed her to, and which she as constantly refused on one Pretence or another. The young Man perceived this Indifference, and it had like to have broke the Match quite off, and would certainly have so done, had not my Father severely reprimanded her for her Conduct. Soon afterwards it was discovered she had conceived a great  
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Regard for Mr. *Hudson*, and was not without Hopes that her Beauty (for she is extremely handsome) might make a Conquest of his Heart. But at length, finding her Vanity disappointed, she married the Farmer, who took her home the same Evening, and he proves an indulgent, loving Husband, and she a virtuous Wife.



## C H A P. XXX.

**A**Fter my Cousin had left us, Mr. *Hudson* soon recovered Strength enough in his Leg to come into the Dining-room, with the Help of Crutches, and even those he did not use long, tho' my Father would not suffer the Bandages to be taken of, till full two Months were expired, when he unbound them himself, and so judiciously had the Bone been set, that it was impossible to distinguish which Leg had been the Sufferer.

As the Pocket-Book afore-mentioned had been returned to Mr. *Hudson*, he  
took

took the Opportunity, while I was out of the Room, of expressing his grateful Sentiments in the most genteel Manner; Protesting that he was satisfied nothing could have saved his Life, but the speedy Assistance of Mr. *Winnington*; that he should never forget the Obligations he was under, nor the Civilities received from his Family; and as some little Compensation, begged he would accept a Bill of five Hundred Pounds, which he generously presented; but my Father's absolute Refusal of any Gratuity whatsoever, was, I believe, a Surprise as well as Concern to him, by his Reply. Mr. *Winnington*, said he, tho' I am infinitely obliged to you, yet I take it unkindly, that you would deprive me of the only Means in my Power, at present, of making any Returns. Can you suppose I am totally ignorant, how expensive I have been to you? Is it reasonable that a Stranger, who you know is not in distressed Circumstances, taken up, wounded, and helpless, and by your Goodness and Humanity preserved, should

24      THE SUPPOSED DAUGHTER;

should burthen you with maintaining himself, Servant, two Nurses, and a Couple of Horses, near three Months? indeed it is not; permit me, therefore, Sir, to do common Justice, and I shall be entirely easy; and with your Permission, will gladly remain a Month or six Weeks longer in the Country. Your Denial of this Request, will undoubtedly convince me I have been too troublesome already, and that it is high Time for me to take my Leave.

My Father having a sincere Respect and Regard for him, said all the kind and obliging Things imaginable; concluding, rather than he should remain dissatisfied in his Mind, he would consent to accept of a reasonable Allowance for his Board, but that it would be time enough to talk of it whenever his Affairs should call him away.

Mr. *Hudson* having shewed us his Picture set in Gold several Times, we had all commended the Skill of the Artist, for having taken the Likeness so just; he that Day privately took my Watch from



from the Place where it usually hung, and affixed the Picture to the Chain. On my finding it there, he courteously asked Pardon for the Liberty he had taken, and hoped I would suffer it to remain there; to which I made no other Reply than a condescending Nod, and with which he seemed highly delighted. A Month passed pleasantly away, we having sometimes little Concerts of Music, and at others we conversed in *French*, when he never failed to recommend to my Perusal some of their best Authors, whom he named. In short, it will be needless to repeat, how engaging the Conversation must be, of a Man of his Sense, Wit, Learning, and every other Gentleman-like Qualification. These, tho' valuable in themselves, I looked on as Acquirements of a polite Education, but it was his natural Endowments of Modesty and Good-nature, that I esteemed far above all his other Perfections.

Among our other Amusements in fine Evenings, we frequently walked in the Garden (for he had not yet been

abroad since his Misfortune) and it was there he first made a Declaration of his Love, in Terms so respectful and honourable, that I cannot say I was displeased at the Discovery he made, and believe I behaved in such a Manner as convinced him of it. I told him, that altho' I might have no Objection to his Person, yet I was under the sole Direction and Disposal of a Father, and was not at Liberty to receive Addresses from any Body, without his Knowledge and Consent.

He applauded my Discretion, and hoped I would not surmise he had any Thoughts of proceeding without it; protesting, his only Design of opening his Heart to me first, was, that if unhappily I had any prior Engagements, or particular Dislike to his Person, he might desist from giving me one Moment's Uneasiness, by troubling me with his Passion, tho' his future Happiness wholly depended upon it; and concluded, with begging Leave that he might be permitted

ted to acquaint my Father with his honourable Intentions.

He construed my Silence as a Sort of tacit Consent, desired my Father the next Morning to take a Ride out with him, to which he consented: And when they returned, I could perceive a sparkling Joy in Mr. *Hudson's* Countenance, while he recounted the Conversation which had passed between my Father and him. I know, Gentlemen, continued the Lady, you already guess a natural Consequence; for it must plainly appear to you, that Mr. *Hudson* had a powerful Advocate within my Breast. It is unnecessary to mention the Tenderness of his Addresses, or the seeming Sincerity with which he made them, observing only, that he urged his Passion with all the Warmth of an inspired Lover, and that I believed.

In a short Time Matters were settled, and we, at his earnest Request, were privately married, by a Relation of my Mother's, who was Rector of a Parish about twenty Miles from us; none be-

ing present at the Ceremony but his Family and my Father. My own Maid, indeed, was let into the Secret, as it would have been difficult to have concealed it from her, tho' neither his Black, nor our Cook, suspected it a long Time. In less than four Months, visible Signs of Pregnancy appearing in me, both my Father and myself began to be uneasy. He then expostulated with my Husband, and represented the Necessity of divulging our Marriage, to prevent that Censure and Scandal, he well knew the Country would liberally bestow, when my present Condition was made public. He replied, that he had no Objection; but insinuated it would be more agreeable to him to postpone it till his Return from *London*, where Affairs of Consequence shortly required his Presence for a few Weeks. And tho' this might have raised Suspicions in the Breast of some, yet the Purity and Sincerity of my Love to the kindest and tenderest Husband living, guarded me from having any.

Pre-



Preparations for his Journey were made for above a Week. During which Time, he endeavoured to shew, if possible, an Increase of Love and Fondness. And tho' he endeavoured all he could to hide a Melancholy, I plainly discovered it, by seeing more than once involuntary Tears gush from his Eyes. The Night preceding his Departure, was spent in mutual fond Promises and Assurances. Our Parting in the Morning, was like the Separation of Soul and Body, for we were both speechless. Yet little did I think the tender Embrace he took at mounting his Horse, would prove the last. Three Times did he ride off, and as often returned, within ten Yards of the Gate where I stood like a Statue, having, as I believe, an Intention of declaring something, but wanted the Power; the fourth Time he followed his Servant, and turned back no more.

The Tremor and Confusion I was in was observed by my Father, who judged it necessary instantly to bleed me, and desired I would go directly to my

Chamber : I did so, and went to Bed, and found myself greatly refreshed and composed, when I awaked from a Sleep of Six Hours, which was occasioned by a Medicine my Father caused me to take before I laid down. He then visited me in my Room, where, in a long Conversation, I informed him of all that had passed between me and my Husband, since his Declaration of taking a Journey to *London*, and also of his having delivered to me, the Evening before his Departure, Six Thousand Pounds, in Bank Notes, accompanied with Sighs, and Tears in his Eyes, and saying, My ever dearly beloved Wife, this Sum, prudently laid out, will be hereafter some Provision for you, and the dear unborn Infant you bear, if Death, either casual or natural, should prevent our ever meeting again. His dejected Countenance, and these sorrowful Words, had such an Effect on my Spirits, that I turned pale, and was near fainting away ; when, to sooth me, he added, Do not imagine, my Love, that I ap-  
pre-

prehend such fatal Consequences ; what I have said, proceeds only from a Consideration that we are all mortal, and liable to a thousand Accidents, capable of depriving us of Being.

In pulling his Handkerchief out of his Pocket, his Picture dropt on the Floor, and, as I was quite ignorant of his having taken it from my Watch, I caught it up, saying, Sure, my dear Love, you would not endeavour to deprive me of all the Comfort and Consolation I shall have in your Absence ! It is not enough that your Image is imprinted on my Heart, my Eyes must have the Satisfaction daily and hourly of beholding it. He replied, that his Design of taking it with him, was only to get it enriched with Diamonds, but I protesting I could not part with it on any Account whatsoever, he consented to leave it behind him.

These, with several other odd Circumstances, as his not seeing or writing one Letter to any Person, nor receiving one during the seven Months he remain-

ed with us ; our not being able to recollect his having once mentioned the Names or Residence of his Relations or Friends ; the Manner of his taking Leave, and riding back so often, without speaking a Word, compelled us to believe there was something mysterious in his Behaviour, though we were far from entertaining any Opinion prejudicial to his Faith and Honour.

I had soon the Pleasure of hearing from him, and his Letter was writ in the most fond and passionate Style, full of kind and endearing Expressions of everlasting Love and Fidelity ; but the Conclusion of it caused some Alloy to the Joy I conceived in reading the former Part, as it informed me, that such Intricacies had happened, by a long Neglect of his Affairs, that he could not possibly name a certain Time for his Return. He also took Notice, that my Father would receive a Box, directed to him, by the Carrier, in which I should find some Parcels which belonged to me ; and concluded with these remarkable Words,



Words, That if Rivers, Seas and Worlds should interpose themselves between us, they could not be capable of shaking his Constancy, or diminishing one Particle of the inviolable Love and Affection he bore to me.

My Father had another by the same Post, which he put into my Hand, as soon as I had made an End of reading my own, and the genteel Manner therein, in which he paid his Duty to him, was very agreeable, as well as his Professions of Friendship, Respect and Gratitude. Yet there was a Paragraph, in which a Request was made, that we could not easily comprehend; it was to this Effect: He earnestly desired my Father would invite, with my Approbation, Mr. *Richardson*, the Clergyman who married us, with his Wife and Daughters, to spend some Days at his House; intimating, if that worthy Gentleman was desired to bring with him the Licence, by virtue of which he was made a happy Husband, that he would assuredly comply with his Request; and

insinuated, how infinitely he should be obliged to my Father, if he would prepare a handsome Entertainment for his most deserving Friends and Neighbours, while Mr. *Richardson* was with him, and that he would prevail on that reverend Divine, soon after Dinner, to promulge the Marriage he had solemnized to the Company, and ascertain the Time, by producing the Licence, and his Parish Register, for the Perusal and Satisfaction of all present ; adding, that these public Testimonies would undoubtedly put Calumny and Detraction out of Countenance, and silence the Malignancy of the most mischievous Tongues.

Mr. *Hudson* assigned two Reasons for our complying with his Request. The first was, that the unspotted Virtue of his Wife might not suffer : The other, he owned, proceeded from a Modesty he could not get the better of, being conscious of committing an Imprudency in concealing his Marriage so long ; therefore would gladly have his Happiness proclaimed to the World, while he

was

was absent; but concluded, that should his Presence be insisted on, and thought necessary, he would instantly return on our Answer, though he left his Business unfinished.

We both writ—my Father giving Assurances that every thing should be conducted as he required the following Week, which was accordingly done, when I had the Pleasure of receiving the Compliments of my Friends, and all of them made themselves merry on my stolen Wedding; of which, and every other Circumstance, I gave my Husband an Account in my Letter, and strongly solicited his speedy Return.

For a Month longer, every Post brought fresh Epistles from the dear Man, nor did I neglect answering any of them. They were all so tender, obliging and complaisant, no Mortal would have judged they came from a Husband, but, on the contrary, would have believed them to be so many *Billet-doux* from a passionate, sincere Lover.

I had almost forgot to tell you the Contents of the Box we received by the Carrier. It contained a Service of useful Plate, weighing together upwards of Eight Hundred Ounces, as a Present to my Father; an Ivory Cabinet for myself, with some Jewels, among which was a Hoop Diamond Ring, with this *French Motto*, *Tout Constant*, besides two different Pieces of rich Brocade; one of which he desired might be made up, and worn the Day I received my Company.

I was now grown pretty big, being near six Months gone with Child, and in daily Expectation of seeing my Husband, when I received a fatal Letter which dashed all my Hopes. It is impossible to describe the Consternation I was in, or express the agonizing Pain and Distraction it occasioned, altho' it was as kind and tender as any of the former. It informed me, that it was the last his unkind Fate would allow him to write for the Space of full Seven Years; nor could he be permitted to see or  
hear



hear from me, till the Expiration thereof, or even to remain in the same Kingdom, without involving both me and himself in Calamities above human Nature to bear.

He then observed, that the Accidents foretold by a venerable Sage, who had cast his Nativity when an Infant, had constantly happened at the Time predicted; that being thus convinced of their Veracity, and as there was no other Way of avoiding those dire Calamities, but by following his prescribed Injunctions, he was, in order thereto, determined to become an Exile in distant Regions, till the threatened Danger was past; that nothing could support him under that long and killing Separation, but the certain Assurances given, he should return in Safety to his dear Wife, with whom he should enjoy an uninterrupted State of Tranquillity and Happiness to a good old Age, and be blessed with many dear Pledges of conjugal Love. In full Expectation of the last being accomplished, he earnestly con-

38      THE SUPPOSED DAUGHTER;

conjured me to make myself easy, and patiently submit to the severe Dictates of Fate, and assured me he should embark that Day for the Continent, under a borrowed Name, without coming to a Resolution of settling in any particular Part of it. He closed this last long Letter, with many kind Wishes for my safe Delivery, adding, that however Destiny should dispose of him, I might safely depend on the Truth and Honour of a Husband, who passionately loved, and would, while Life remained, continue just and faithful.

What could I think, Gentlemen, from these Proceedings of a Man of Sense? The most natural Conclusion was, that he had unhappily fallen into a Delirium, or he could never have acted so indiscreetly, as to have followed the Dictates of a Dreaming Astrologer. My Father believing no otherwise, set out the same Day for *London*, in hopes of preventing his intended Ramble. He came too late, for the Landlord where he lodged, informed him, that Mr. *Hudson* had discharged

charged him and his black Servant, some Days before, with an Intention, as he said, of going abroad, and believed he was gone, for his Portmanteaus had been sent on board a Vessel in the River; but what was her Name, or where she was going, he knew not. My Father visited every outward-bound Ship in the *Thames*, and at length, going on board a *Holland* Trader, he was told that such a Gentleman as he described, had been to take a Passage with them, but they not being ready to sail so soon as another which was going to *Rotterdam*; he had gone on board in the latter, and which possibly by that Time, might be arrived there, it having sailed three or four Days before.

My Father, on being acquainted that this Ship would depart on the Tide of Ebb, for the same Port, determined to make the Voyage with them.

When they came to *Holland*, he found the Vessel in the Harbour, that had carried my Husband over; but all the Information he could get of the Master, was,

was, that the Person he enquired for had landed immediately after their casting Anchor, and that he had neither seen or heard any Thing of him since. On being asked, whether the Gentleman shewed any Signs of Discontent or Madness, he seemed much surpris'd, and declared, none in the least appeared to him, but on the contrary, his engaging and gentleman-like Behaviour, among other Passengers of Distinction, had created a particular Respect to his Person, and excited the Curiosity of some of them so far as to enquire of him, if he knew the young Gentleman, or where, or to what Part of the World he was bound.

My Father then went on Shore, to an *English* House, and procured proper Persons to make diligent Enquiries every where; and the Result was, that such a Stranger had lain one Night at an Inn, in *Rotterdam*, where he had his Hair cut off, bought a Wig, and set out the next Morning, without declaring the Route he intended to take. By this Account, my Father despairing of an Interview with



with his Son-in-law, returned to *London*, and from thence to his own House, just sixteen Days after his Departure.

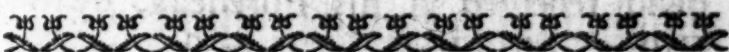
As we were now undoubtedly assured he was really gone abroad, I was under the most dreadful Apprehensions for his Safety, and have continued so ever since. Three Months afterwards, I was greatly alarmed and chagrined, to find that none of the *West-India* Merchants in *London*, nor *Bristol*, on Application to them, could give any Account of such a Person as Mr. *Hudson*. On the contrary, they assured us that there was none of that Name they knew of, in *Jamaica*, or any of the Islands, and it is now more than seven Years I have remained, without hearing the least Tidings of him, altho' his Person has been advertised in the foreign Gazettes, and I had two Copies of his Picture drawn from my Original, and sent Messengers with them to the principal Cities of *Europe*; and used every probable Method that might conduce to a Discovery where his disordered Senses had hurried him.

All

All the Consolation my Father could administer, centered in the Hopes that his Phrenzy might either abate of itself, or manifestly appear to some Gentlemen of the Faculty abroad, who would have Humanity enough to have him confined, if necessary, in order to his Cure, and if either of these should happen, he was of Opinion we should not long mourn his Absence.

Notwithstanding my severe Affliction, I was providentially delivered at the appointed Time, of two male Children. The Consideration of my Duty to them, and their little innocent Actions and Prattle, as they grew up, made Life supportable, and indeed those and a kind Parent were my only Comfort. But alas ! I am deprived of one by the Decease of my dear Father, a few Months since. This has made the Place of my Birth so disagreeable to me, that I have let my House and Estate, and put my Sons to a Boarding-school of good Reputation in the Town, where you was so kind as to take me up. A Sort of secret

cret Impulse has prompted me to take this Journey to *London*, with a glimmering Hope of still hearing some News of my dear Husband in that Place of general Intelligence. Mrs. *Hudson* concluded her Story with declaring, that however melancholy and unpleasing her Relation had been, she hoped for the Indulgence and Pardon of the Gentlemen present, since she had undertaken it merely to oblige them in their Request.



C H A P. XXXI.

THE Gentlemen paid their joint Compliments and Thanks to Mrs. *Hudson*, for the Favour she had done them, and heartily wished her Success. After Supper she retired to her Chamber, when the whole Conversation turned on the Oddness of her Adventures, and they were unanimously concerned, that a Lady of her Virtue, Beauty, and Discretion, should be so unfortunate. Captain *Mead*, who before had taken  
Notice

44      THE SUPPOSED DAUGHTER ;

Notice of a Likeness between Captain *Lewis* and the Picture, said, that the more he thought of their Resemblance, the stronger were his Conceptions of it, and besides, that the Character the Lady gave of Mr. *Hudson*, was quite agreeable to that which Captain *Lewis* bore in the Army; that his playing inimitably well on the *German Flute*, had its Weight also. Another Circumstance, said he, regards a Wound the Lady's Husband received in his Forehead, by the Fall off his Horse, as it is strange that Captain *Lewis* should have one over his right Eye-brow, which I have heard him say came by the same Accident, on which he always wears a large black Patch; besides, continued he, I have another strong Remark to make, which serves to prove *Hudson* and *Lewis* to be of the same Way of Thinking; for I very well remember, in a Conversation one Evening, that Fortune-tellers, Casters of Nativities, and all Pretenders to judicial Astrology, were laughed at, and ridiculed by some of the Company, when



when we were surpris'd at hearing a Gentleman of Captain *Lewis's* Learning and good Sense, so warmly defend the Cause of those Impostors; and it was to me a most convincing Argument that all Mankind have their Foibles of one kind or another; for, excepting this single Topic, I never heard a Gentleman talk more universally well than he did.

I shall conclude with observing, said he, that if Mr. *Hudson's* Wound should prove to be over the same Eye-brow, as the other's (of which I shall beg Leave to be acquainted To-morrow) I think it will be no unnatural Conclusion to believe, that Mr. *Hudson* and Captain *Lewis* is one and the same Person. What the aforementioned Gentleman had observed, was corroborated by another of the Officers present, who also knew the Captain. He likewise said, that since Captain *Mead* had mentioned the Thing, he could not help owning, but that he really thought there was a remarkable Likeness in the Faces; tho' the Picture being drawn so young, and in a light  
Hair,

Hair, and the Captain wearing a dark Wig, and being at least eight or ten Years older, had prevented his making the Discovery.

The next Morning they all breakfasted together, and before they went into the Coach, Captain *Mead* desired once more, the Favour of viewing the Picture, and that Mrs. *Hudson* would put the point of a Pin as near as she could guess, to the Place of her Husband's Wound in his Forehead, giving his Reasons for such Enquiry, and relating the Conversation that had passed the last Night after she was gone to Bed. She appeared exceedingly surpris'd and rejoic'd, on Captain *Mead*'s crying, the Moment she applied the Pin to the right Eye-brow, By all that's just and good, Madam, the very Place where *Lewis* wears his Patch!

Mrs. *Hudson* had a small Trunk in her Lap, which she immediately unlocked, and taking out one of the Copies she had mentioned before, said, Gentlemen, in this I ordered the Painter to  
put

put the Scar in its Place, and exactly as it appeared at the Time of his leaving us. You may perceive it to be very remarkable, from its being pointed like a Star. While they were looking at it, Serjeant *Webb* came to let them know the Coach was ready, and he no sooner cast his Eyes thereon, than he told Captain *Richmore*, he knew the Gentleman for whom that Picture was drawn. And, on being asked whose he thought it to be, he answered, Captain *Lewis's* of Colonel *Pepper's* Regiment; whom he had served about five Years before, and that it was next to an Impossibility he could be deceived; for, besides the Likeness, Captain *Lewis* had exactly the same Mark in the same Place, which he had often seen, when the old Patch was taken off to put on a new one.

As the Serjeant was quite a Stranger to the Lady's Story, and entirely ignorant of what had been said thereupon; his positive Affirmation, with what had already been mentioned, left them little Room to doubt of Mr. *Hudson's* being found

found to be really Captain *Lewis*. And, the Lady was so well satisfied of the Certainty of it, that she came to a Resolution of visiting *Spain*, at all Adventures. She made many Enquiries concerning his Health, Sanity, and Behaviour; and the Answers she received, were very pleasing and agreeable to her. Captain *Mead* dissuaded her from undertaking such a hazardous and fatiguing Voyage, by assuring her that Captain *Lewis* would be in *England* before she could possibly reach *Spain*; that the Captain, as well as himself, and many other Officers were made Prisoners of War, at the Defeat of *Brihuega*; that several of them had been permitted to travel to *Madrid*, where Passes had been granted on their Parole of Honour to return home; and that after he, and one of the Gentlemen in the Coach, had obtained theirs, and left the City, they met Captain *Lewis*, and other Officers on the Road, going thither for the same Purpose, who all declared their Intention of following to *England*, as soon as Leave and Passes could



could be procured for them. Captain *Mead* added, that it was not improbable but he might be already arrived, as it was full four Months since himself had set out from the last mentioned City, in Expectation of being at home in five or six Weeks, but had been greatly disappointed by Delays and Accidents on the Way, and waiting almost a Fortnight in *Lisbon* for a Passage, which at last proved long and tiresome.

Mrs. *Hudson*, on this Information, altered her Design, and professed herself infinitely obliged to them. Before they arrived at *London*, she was told that the Secretary of War's Office was the proper Place to enquire after Gentlemen of the Army, as every Officer, on his Arrival in the Kingdom, was under an Obligation to appear personally there. They likewise promised to use their utmost Endeavours to serve her, on the first Instant of hearing any News of Captain *Lewis*, and would transmit it to her, if she would honour them with a Direction where to apply. She accordingly

dingly wrote one at the Inn, and soon after complaisantly took her Leave, returning a Thousand Thanks to the Gentlemen, for the Favours and Civilities they had conferred on her.

The next Morning, the Officers attended the War-office, and, on Enquiry, found Captain *Lewis* was not arrived. But while they were there, a Porter brought a Letter for that Gentleman, to be left for him in the Office, which they knew to be Mrs. *Hudson's* Hand. From thence Captain *Richmore* went with a Design of paying his Duty to his Aunt; but was informed by a Person in the Neighbourhood, that she had been dead above four Years, and his Sister and Cousins removed into the Country, but could get no Intelligence of the Place they were gone to. In this Perplexity, he made it his Business to find out the Landlord of the House they had lived in, but all the Information he could gain from him was, that one of the young Ladies was married (and believed it to be Madam *Richmore's* Niece)

Niece) soon after her Aunt's Death, to a *Cornish* Gentleman, whose Name he had forgot; and heard, that the two other young Ladies went into the West, along with the new married Couple.

The Wound in Captain *Richmore's* Arm now broke out again, and the Surgeon was fearful it would turn to a Mortification, but, happily, it did not: However, it was full ten Weeks before a perfect Cure could be performed; when, perceiving that all Enquiries to find out his Relations proved fruitless, and having Instructions from the Secretary at War, to recruit for the Regiment, he intimated to that Gentleman a Desire of trying his Fortune about *Berwick*, where he was well known, who indulged him in his Request; when he directly dispatched Serjeant *Webb* into that Country, with recruiting Orders, giving him Directions to correspond with him, by the Name of *Johnson*, and to deliver Letters to *Eleanora*, and Mrs. *Vanmine*, without discovering to them, or any body whatsoever, the News of his being



52    THE SUPPOSED DAUGHTER ;

in *England*, he having, he said, some Reasons why his Name should be concealed at his first Arrival at *Berwick*.

About a Week afterwards, Captain *Richmore* meeting with Captain *Mead*, they walked together to the Secretary's Office. In returning from thence they met Captain *Lewis* in his Boots, as he was stepping out of a Coach at *Whitehall*, and after congratulating his Arrival in *England*, Captain *Mead* told him, he supposed he was going to the War-office; and the other replied, he was, and seemed much concerned, on being told, that the Secretary would not be there till Six or Seven o'Clock, and said, he was very sorry for it, for had he been lucky enough to have met with him, he would have set out the next Hour for *Salisbury*. They both smiled at his mentioning *Salisbury*—Poh, poh, said Captain *Mead*, you must dine with us, and not think of leaving *London* and your Friends, without spending one Evening with them; and the good News I have to impart, will induce you  
not



not to think of going out of Town to Night; let us, therefore, step to the next Tavern, and you shall be acquainted with it. He consented; and when they were shewn a Room, Captain *Mead* begged Leave, first to ask him one Question, which he expected he would answer on his Honour; which the other having assured him he would, Then, says he, Dear *Lewis*, declare whether or no you married, seven or eight Years ago, a young Lady near *Salisbury*? At this unexpected Question, his Colour instantly changed, and he confessed, on his Honour, he had, and that she was the most worthy and deserving of her Sex. He then earnestly requested to know, by what Means this Marriage came to his Knowledge; when Captain *Mead* repeated to him the Lady's Relation in the Coach, and informed him of the Manner of the Discovery, assuring him of her now being in Town, and that a Letter from her, directed for Captain *James Lewis*, waited for him at the Secretary's Office.

He seemed transported with Joy at this Information, and, embracing him, cried out, Dear *Mead*, your News revives me beyond all Expression! That the dear Creature lives and is well, is all I ask of Heaven. Believe me, Gentlemen, every Word she told you is literally true, excepting where she mistook my pursuing the Dictates of Fate for a Lunacy; the real Cause of which, shall be unfolded to you hereafter, when I can better spare Time, being now under the utmost Impatience to fly into the Arms of an adored Wife. He then bade them adieu, and ran hastily to the Office for the Letter.

The Officers took that Opportunity of dispatching a Messenger to Mrs. *Hudson*, with the agreeable Account of her Husband's Arrival, hoping she would receive this Information Time enough to prevent any ill Effect of Surprise, which his unexpected Presence might occasion. This Caution appeared highly necessary, as she afterwards confessed, in paying her Compliments and Thanks  
for

for the Favour. Good Manners and Respect obliged *Richmore* and *Mead* to pay a Visit to *Lewis* and his Wife the following Evening, by whom they met with a respectful Reception, and received many Acknowledgements and Thanks for their Civilities: A Transcendency of Love, Joy and Satisfaction, appearing visible in each of their Countenances. Captain *Lewis* told them, he should now perform his Promise, by assigning Reasons for a Behaviour, which, he owned, was liable to be censured by the World; yet begged Leave to remain uncondemned by them, till they had heard the true Motives that caused such seeming Inconsistencies in several Actions of his Life.

In order thereto, said he, I shall give you the same Information my Wife has already received, by assuring you, that the Names of *Hudson* and *Lewis* were both assumed, in consequence of the Advice of a worthy antient Man, who perswaded me likewise to travel with a



56      THE SUPPOSED DAUGHTER ;

Preceptor, to finish a liberal Education. My true Name is *James Price*, and *Glamorganshire* the Place of my Birth. My Father died when I was an Infant in Arms, leaving no other Issue. He was a Gentleman possessed of Fourteen Hundred Pounds a Year; which Estate, by his good Œconomy, was left unincumbered. My Mother was a prudent, discreet Woman, whose Management and Frugality enabled her to save several Thousand Pounds in my Minority; the most considerable Part whereof she lent on a Mortgage to a Nobleman in our County. She continued a Widow to her Death, which happened when I was between Seventeen and Eighteen Years of Age. These Things being premised, I shall now proceed to a Description of the venerable Sage I just now mentioned, his Manner of Life, and what prevalent Inducements I had to follow the Advice and Instructions I had from him.

His Stature was taller than most other Mens; his open Countenance  
and



and modest Mein, plainly indicated a serene Satisfaction dwelt within, and his Aspect alone was sufficient to create Veneration and Respect. His Cloathing was a Ruffet Woollen Garment, that reached to his Heels, and when he sat, a graceful Silver Beard covered the fore Part of a broad Leather Belt he constantly wore on his Loins. In his Cheeks there was a lively Red, representing a Bloom of Youth, and the snowy Hair of his Head, in natural Ringlets, covered his Shoulders.

His Manner of living was so abstemious, that every Body admired how so much Health and Vigour could be supported to extreme old Age, when his Diet was nothing but the Roots he raised himself, or the Vegetables he gathered; and he allayed his Thirst, only, with Draughts from a pure adjoining Spring. He had been settled in *Wales* above thirty Years before I was born; having purchased a little Cot and Garden at the Foot of one of our Mountains, at least three or four Miles distant from

any Town or Village; where two poor Families of Shepherds, that attended Cattle on those Hills, were his Neighbours. His long Residence alone, in that solitary Place, without one Person in the Country being informed who he was, or from what Part of the World he came, though it was apparent he had travelled over the greatest Part of it, surpris'd all who knew him. Yet, notwithstanding the Singularity of his Life, and his voluntarily becoming a Recluse, it was easily perceived, that his Choice did not proceed from a Sourness of Temper, or Distaste to Mankind. His great Wisdom, Learning, and communicative Disposition, convinced every one of the contrary, whose Goodwill or Curiosity led them to his Habitation.

His Furniture consisted of little more than a hard Mattress Bed, a Table, some Stools, an earthen Pot, and some wooden Ware; although he had a valuable Collection of Books in most Languages, and several astrological Instruments. The first I am persuaded, he well

well understood, by the frequent Conversation I have had with him, on *Greek* and *Latin* Authors; nor can I doubt of his Skill in judicial Astrology, on the Assurance he gave me, that he had spent half a Century in that Study.

My Father, in his Time, had made some Progress in that Science, and was a great Favourite of this extraordinary Personage. As I grew up, he shewed a Regard for me, and the many Rides I took to see him, when in the Country, pleased him. From my Childhood I had imbibed Notions of his supernatural Knowledge, and most of the Country people firmly believed he could work Miracles, and foretel the future Accidents of Mens Lives, by looking on the Lines of their Faces. The first he constantly denied, and condemned the latter as uncertain. That as Physiognomy alone had deceived many, he therefore never depended on it, or further, than to guess the good or bad Disposition of the Mind; for that, in his Opinion, there was little Depen-



dance either on that Art, or Palmestry; as they were both liable to deviate from Truth, and confound Mankind in Error.

That to the Professors of the occult Sciences only, it was given to foresee future Causes and Events, by reading the divine Characters written in the voluminous and universal Book of Fate, always open to Mortals, in the vast Expanse of Heaven. He scrupled not to declare, that his Knowledge in those Sciences enabled him to caution Men against Misfortunes, and point out certain Means whereby they might avoid several of them, and prevent the Fatality of others; although it was not possible that Foreknowledge, or human Prudence, could totally avert the Decrees of Fate.

By him I was acquainted, that he had, by my Father's Desire, cast my Nativity with the utmost Accuracy, and found my Days chequered with some Blessings and many Misfortunes; and if I would follow his Advice, the  
former



former would be doubled, and the ill Effects of the latter greatly softened. He then added, that if I would prevent an unhappy miserable Life, I must fly this Kingdom before I was Eighteen; and after travelling four Years, I might return for one Year only, and must then leave my native Land again, for full seven Years, and remain abroad, under another Name, concealing my own, and Country, without corresponding with my dearest Friend, Relation, or Wife, for the whole Time. These Directions punctually observed, would, as he assured me, make the Remainder of a long Life happy, with a deserving, dear Partner of my Breast; by whom I should have the Blessing of many fine Children: But any Neglect of conforming to those Directions, would involve myself, Wife and Family, in a most dreadful Labyrinth of Misfortunes and Calamities.

On my Return into *Glamorganshire*, after four Years Travelling, I found the old Gentleman had paid the last Debt of Nature, in less than two Years from my  
 Depart-

Departure. This brought afresh into my Memory what he had declared to me when I waited on him to take my Leave: My Son, he then said, treasure up the Admonitions and Cautions I have given you, this is the last Embrace either of us shall have of each other; for I shall surely sleep with my Fathers before the Sun has made two annual Revolutions round this terrestrial Globe.

It took me up almost six Weeks, to settle my Affairs at home. In that Time the Nobleman who had borrowed Six Thousand Pounds of my Mother, paid the Mortgage off, with the Interest, the whole of which amounted to upwards of Seven Thousand Pounds: I received it all in Bank Bills, which I carried to *Bristol*, and then to *Bath* with me. At the last Place, after spending a Month, I sent my Servant home, and took the Name of *Hudson*, and was proceeding to *London*, with a Black Servant I had hired there. In this Journey, the Accident happened on the Road, which you have heard, as well as whatever passed from

from thence to my going abroad. I changed my Name again on landing in *Holland*, and hearing there of Lord *Peterborough's* Expedition into *Spain*, I determined to make some Campaigns in his Army; and you, Captain *Mead*, know, I have served there during almost the whole War. And now, Gentlemen, I hope this will convince you, I had no villanous Intention of marrying my dear Wife in a borrowed Name, nor base Design in changing it afterwards. I shall now conclude, with appealing to yourselves, whether either of you, on a due Consideration of all Circumstances, with such a strong Prepossession from Infancy, would have acted otherwise; especially as many Things happened on my first Travels, according to the Information he had given me: Therefore I verily believed, whatever Calamities my Family were threatened with, would as certainly happen; and were no Way to be avoided, but by following the Advices and Instructions of my venerable Friend,

Friend, who could have no View or Interest in deceiving me.

They acknowledged themselves at a Loss to determine how they should have behaved in so extraordinary a Case, where many of the Incidents were so wonderful and surprising.

Captain *Lewis* and his Lady obliged them to stay Supper, and talked of setting out for *Salisbury* the next Morning, and from thence to his Estate in *Glamorganshire*; and after spending the remaining Part of the Night in the utmost Chearfulness, Captain *Mead* and his Friends heartily took their Leave, and wished them a good Journey.



#### C H A P. XXXII.

**B**Y Serjeant *Webb's* Account from *Berwick*, Captain *Richmore* was informed, he had delivered his Letters to Miss *Eleanora*, and Mrs. *Vanmine*; the former of whom he represented to be in a very indifferent State of Health,  
and



and returned their Answers inclosed. He also acquainted him of the Success he had already met with in recruiting, and that he had enlisted many Men before Sir *Robert Richmore*, who, on finding he came from *Spain*, enquired if he knew a young Gentleman of the Name of *Richmore*, whom he had heard was an Officer in the Army there? That upon his answering he did, and left him well, he asked a Multitude of Questions in a Breath, as what Commission and Character he bore? How many Nuns he had ravished? What Churches he had plunder'd? What Rapine and Murders he had committed? And whether he did not rant and roar, bully and get drunk? For I suppose, added he, by this Time he is grown as great a Rake as any Officer of them all. However, I have Reason to believe so, by his Disobedience to me; first, in going abroad without my Consent and Knowledge, and lastly, by his so far neglecting his Duty, as never once to write to me during the Time he has been absent:

Nor

Nor should I have known what was become of him, had I not been informed by Mr. *Wilson*, who met him at *Lisbon*, some Years ago, that he was gone into the Army. Tho' indeed, that Lady, (pointing to Mrs. *Vanmine*, who was in the Room with *Eleanora*) I think, has been favoured with two or three of his Epistles. During these Interrogations, poor *Eleanora's* Mind was greatly agitated, and her Colour went and returned several Times, but to her great Joy it was unperceived by Sir *Robert*.

The Serjeant replied, as soon as he was at Liberty to speak, that Mr. *Richmore* was a Captain, and honoured the Commission he bore; that his general Character was every Way equal to any other Officer of his Rank, both as a Soldier and Gentleman; and was remarkably modest, brave, honest and generous; beloved by his superior Officers, and adored by those under his Command; and, above all, was the most humane and compassionate Man living.

Altho'

Altho' Sir *Robert* much suspected the Serjeant's Veracity, he could not help being sensibly pleased with his Account of his Nephew; for he had always more Affection for him than any of the rest of the Family. *Eleanora* requested, that she and Mrs. *Vanmine* might be permitted to enquire more particularly concerning her Cousin; which being granted, and Sir *Robert* gone into his Closet, the Serjeant entertained them above an Hour, many Parts of his Relation drawing silent Tears from their Eyes; but when he came to the Action in the Mill, near *Brihuega*, where Captain *Richmore* was shot thro' the Body, stripped, and laid among the Slain, *Eleanora* fainted away, when a Scream from Mrs. *Vanmine* brought some of the Servants, and soon afterwards Sir *Robert*, into the Parlour. She was just come to herself when he entered, and begged, she might still be allowed to hear the Serjeant conclude his Relation, which she apprehended was very near finishing, and that she and Mrs. *Vanmine* would then relate it to him.

The



The Serjeant, who had retired upon *Eleanora's* fainting, was again sent for in, and he declared he had little more to add, but that a charitable antient Widow, whose Husband had been an eminent Surgeon, had taken him into her House, which was near the Place where he fell; that her Skill and Care in three Months Time, had wrought the most wonderful Cure that ever was effected. He ended, with taking Notice, as those Letters he had the Honour of delivering, were dated long after that unfortunate Action, they must be perfectly satisfied of his Recovery.

Before he left them, he intimated, he had that Morning received Advice from his Captain, that he would be in Town on that Day three Weeks; therefore intended, as the Market would be then held, to honour his Coming, and divert the People, to give a laced Hat, and some Buff Gloves, as Prizes to be cudgelled for, and hoped they would be Spectators of the same, from the Milliner's he had often observed them at,  
which



which was just opposite to the Place where the Stage was to be erected; and that there they would have an Opportunity of seeing his Captain, whom he assured them, was an intimate Friend of Captain *Richmore's*, and had, he imagined, Letters of a fresher Date from him.

They both obligingly promised to be there, and *Eleanora* expressed great Satisfaction in the Account he had given of her Cousin. On his taking Leave, she desired he would accept of a Trifle (a Purse of ten Guineas) in Recompence for the Trouble she had given him, but he declared he should think himself unworthy of the Favours received from Captain *Richmore*, if he took any Thing; and returning many Thanks for her generous Offer, and the Honour done him, respectfully took his Leave. However, she immediately sent the Purse, with double the Sum, to his Quarters.

They then returned to Sir *Robert*, to whom Mrs. *Vanmine* (for *Eleanora* could not speak for the Flood of Tears which stood in her Eyes) gave a succinct Account

count of the Whole, with which he was so affected, that he could not help sympathizing with his Daughter: And his Heart, which for many Years had been almost void of Compassion, began that Instant to relent. He cried out, What a cruel Wretch have I been? It is I that forced him from his Country; it is I am the principal Cause of his Misfortunes; it was I that precipitated him into every Danger he has run thro'; and it is I that must be answerable for the Life of that worthy young Man, if he should perish. Then rising from his Chair, he said, I will this Moment write to my dear Nephew, which I desire may be forwarded to him with all Expedition, by the Serjeant, in Terms so full of Love and Affection, that, I am well assured from the Knowledge I have of his Affability, will soon bring him to my Arms, which now long to embrace him. Do not be jealous, my dear Daughter, continued he, when I declare to you I love him almost equal to yourself: And as my Fortune is large enough for  
you

you both, I shall, on his Arrival, settle an Estate on him, suitable to the Title he must one Day enjoy, and so well deserves; and tho' I shall inform him of my Design, I flatter myself, that will not be the only Inducement for his returning home. *Eleanora* and *Mrs. Vanmine*, were so rejoiced at these uncommon Sentiments, that the former omitted not to let *Sir Robert* know how agreeable they were to her, and how much they suited her own Inclinations. She likewise informed him, that *Mrs. Vanmine* had lately received a Letter from her Cousin, which assured her of his Return to *England* in less than six Months; and that the Serjeant had told them, his Captain, who had Letters, he believed, to deliver from *Mr. Richmore*, would certainly be in Town in three Weeks; and that some Diversions were to be exhibited on the Day of his Arrival, and that they had promised, if his Leave attended their Wishes, to be at *Mrs. Tyson's* that Day.

*Sir Robert* seemed greatly pleased, and not only approved of their going, but pro-



promised to be there himself, that he might have an Opportunity of inviting the Captain to his House; not doubting but a more particular Account of his Nephew, from him, would heighten the Satisfaction they had already received by that of the Serjeant.

They all went to *Berwick* on the appointed Day, found the Stage erected, and a Crowd of Country Fellows ready to mount. The Serjeant, on seeing them, came over, paid his Compliments, and offered to begin the Sports when they pleased, notwithstanding his Captain (whom he had always called *Johnson*) was not yet come, tho' he expected him every Minute. He had no sooner said these Words, than Captain *Richmore*, and his Servant alighted at *Trusty's* Door, which was directly opposite to where the Ladies were, when the Serjeant's running abruptly over, to pay his Compliments, convinced them it was his Officer.

The Serjeant, informing Captain *Richmore* who was at the Window, he turned



turned about, and made a respectful Bow, and retired with Confusion into the Inn, being ready to drop at the first Glances he received from *Eleanora's* Eyes. She, on her Part, was in the same Condition; and would really have fallen, had she not been supported by *Mrs. Vanmine*. Oh, Heavens! cried she, it is my dear Cousin himself! the Serjeant has imposed on us.

None was in the Room but themselves, at this Time, *Sir Robert* being below, talking to some Tenants in the Street. *Mrs. Vanmine* was of the same Opinion, but could not be sure; for nothing but the piercing Eyes of true and constant Love, could so suddenly have discovered a Person, so much altered from what he was six Years before; at which Time he was a Stripling, wearing his own flaxen Hair, waving in Curls half way down his Back. But now he was grown a great deal taller, and filled up into ripened Manhood; and his Complexion, from an exceeding Fair, changed into that of the Olive, by the

Heat of the Sun. Yet none of these Alterations, with the Blackness of the Wig he wore, could conceal him from *Eleanora's* Knowledge, who could not imagine why he should endeavour to deceive her. However, she concluded, he might have some Reasons for so doing, and therefore determined not to know him, till he thought fit to discover himself.

Sir *Robert* coming in, told them the Captain was come, and that he had just seen him, as he passed into the Yard, talking *Spanish* to his Serjeant, with whom he supposed, he would be engaged some Time. That he had left a Servant with Orders, at a proper Opportunity, to tell the Serjeant, to give his Compliments to the Captain, and desire the Favour of seeing him. Adding, Upon my Word he seems a handsome, genteel young Fellow, and has the Appearance of the Gentleman and Soldier. I do not mean that of the Hat-and-Feather Coxcombs we often meet with here; who no sooner get a Commission in their Pockets, than they commence

mence Fops, Fools, and Reprobates; vainly believing every Woman who looks on them, is as much enamoured with their Persons, as themselves are. He then observed, that he thought some Lineaments in his Face nearly resembled what he remembered of his Nephew. *Eleanora* took no other Notice of Sir *Robert's* last Words, than by a Look at Mrs. *Vanmine*.

Soon after Captain *Richmore* waited on them, when the Baronet took him by the Hand, and said, Captain *Johnson*, you are welcome into this Country. I shall be glad to see you often at my House: your Serjeant, who I believe is a very honest Fellow, can shew you the Way, he having enlisted a great many brave Fellows before me for her Majesty's Service, without ever hearing the least Complaint against him. Then leading him up to *Eleanora*, presented her as his Daughter, and the other as a particular Friend. Captain *Richmore* saluted them, and then turning about, thanked him for the Honour he had done



76      The SUPPOSED DAUGHTER ;

him ; said he would endeavour to merit it, and accepted of his kind Invitation with great Pleasure ; promising, whenever the fatiguing Business of recruiting would permit, he should lose no Opportunity of paying his Respects to him.

By this Time *Eleanora* having lost the crimsoned Flush in her Face, which his Presence had occasioned, civilly enquired after her Cousin's Health, as being acquainted, she said, with his serving in the same Regiment ; desired to know where he left him, and when expected home ? And if he knew whether it was his Intention of visiting that Part of *England* ? To these Questions he replied, I have only a Commission from Captain *Richmore* to give his Duty to his Uncle, Sir *Robert*, and Love to you Madam, and Mrs. *Vanmine* ; which I was just going to deliver, before you asked the Question. And pray, Sir, continued *Eleanora*, is that all ? Did he not think any of us worthy of a Letter ? I am very sure my Father, this Lady, and myself, would have been glad



glad to have heard from him : So must believe he has little Regard for any of his Relations or Friends in this Part of the World.

It is true, Madam, replied he, I have no Letters, but fear you judge too unkindly of my Friend ; having often heard him speak of you in the most tender and affectionate Terms ; and in Raptures of Joy, declare your Perfections were far above any Thing human. But indeed, Ladies, I have a Present to you, in which possibly there may be Letters. It is contained in a large Box, which I sent by the Carrier the Day before I set out from *London*, and on its Arrival, I shall take Care to see it safely conveyed to you. Another Part of my Commission, Sir *Robert*, relates to you ; whom he confessed he had justly disobliged, by leaving his Country, without discharging his Duty as he ought to have done ; which, from our Intimacy, I have heard him frequently lament. He desired I would let you know, how sensible he was of his Crime, and how happy he

should be if I could gain your Permission to throw himself at your Feet, on his Arrival in *England*; without which, he assured me, he neither could have the Assurance to write, or to appear in your Presence.

It is too much Captain *Johnson*, said the Baronet, he is too good.—It is I that am to blame.—But you shall know more of that another Time. And when you write, I beg you would convey a Letter to him from me, which I hope will set all to rights.

As the Captain had determined to make this Visit as short as possible, he rose up in a respectful Manner, and took his Leave, with a Promise of paying his Duty to him and the Ladies in a Day or two at farthest. *Eleanora* (who longed to be alone with Mrs. *Vanmine*) soon after the Captain's Departure, intimated a Desire of going home, rather than of staying to see the intended Sports; and Sir *Robert*, having as little Passion for them, as she had, he ordered the Coach immediately.

Cap-

Captain *Richmore* was stopped at the Door by honest *Trusty*, who was in the Market when he first arrived, and had waited his Return with the utmost Impatience, to give him a Welcome; and hear more News of his dear young Master. He accosted him with a Smile in his Face, and saying, he was better pleased to see a Friend of his Master's at his House, than all the Gentry in the Country. Oh, noble Captain, I would tell you—But you know him, that's enough, that's enough. I was with him from his being a Child, till the Death of my good Master, his Father—Could I once see him, I could die, I could die, contented. I hope your Honour left him well?—On Assurance from the Captain that he did so, and that he would see him in *England* in two or three Months, he cried out in the utmost Extacy, Odds-heart, Captain, I'll order this Minute a Butt of Humming Beer to the Door, that the whole Town may drink his Health, and yours for bringing the good News. Mr. *Rich-*

*more* endeavoured to persuade him from so unnecessary an Expence, but could not prevail. Expence, Sir ! said he, I value it not. Thank God, who has blessed my honest Endeavours, I can afford it : but if all the Beer in my Cellar, or the last Shilling I have in the World, would do him Good, all should be at his Service.

Here the Captain, with Difficulty, concealed himself any longer from his Knowledge ; believing it to be almost a Crime thus to impose upon the Simplicity and Honesty of this faithful old Servant. However, he resolved, first to get a true Information from him, of all Family Affairs, which had happened in his Absence ; and in order thereto, desired a Dinner might be provided, which he chose should be brought up to his Room, for that being much fatigued with his Journey, he did not care to see Company, though he should be glad of his, to eat a Bit with him.



## C H A P. XXXIII.

AS soon as Captain *Richmore* had dined, he intimated to *Trusty* that a particular Account of the *Richmore* Family would infinitely oblige him; having often heard his Friend say, it had been attended with many uncommon Events. *Trusty* readily began, with informing him that it was the most anti-ent, as well as most honourable in the Country; that his Father had been Steward to the Father of the late Sir *Robert*, and that himself was born in the House, and succeeded him in that Office, to his Son the present Sir *Robert*, whose Grandfather and Father were Gentlemen possessed of every good Quality; being just, generous and charitable: That the last, at his Death, left three Sons, all promising young Gentlemen, Sir *Robert*, the eldest, being then about Nineteen. He proceeded then to give an Account of his Extravagance, Marriage with *Gripe's* Daughter, &c. which having been already related, are

omitted here. He also mentioned the Grief he had been under, that no News had arrived from Captain *Richmore* in full eighteen Months Time; and likewise, that in sorting the Letters (his being the Post-house) he found one directed to himself, and knowing the Hand as well as his own, opened it with the greatest Eagerness; When, continued he, you may judge, Sir, better than I can tell you, my Joy at finding my dear young Master was alive. By his Letter I was informed he had writ before to his Aunt, as also to Miss *Eleanora*, Mrs. *Vanmine* and myself. He charged me therein, to see his Cousin *Eleanora*, and Mrs. *Vanmine*, if living; and said, that he had sent Letters to them by the same Conveyance, which he hoped they would receive, and ordered me to relate whatever had happened in the Family since his Departure, and to direct for him, a Lieutenant, in Colonel *Pierce's* Regiment, at *Saragosa*, or elsewhere, in *Spain*.

I was in such a Hurry to obey his Commands, that I left off the Business

I was

I was upon, and instantly took my Horse, and rode away to Sir *Robert's*. He was abroad, but I found Miss *Eleanora* and Mrs. *Vanmine* in the Garden, and presented my Letter to the former, crying out at the same Time, with Tears of Joy in my Eyes, He is alive! Mr. *Richmore* is alive! Here, Madam, here is a Letter from him! When instantly Miss *Eleanora* hastily caught it out of my Hand, but could not read it till she had sat down on a Bench which was near her. They both perused the Letter at the same Time, and, at the Conclusion of it, expressed the utmost Satisfaction. *Eleanora*, stedfastly looking at the other, said, Oh, what Grief and Tears would this have saved us, had we known it before! But, alas! what do I say! Have I not cause to weep now, since I no sooner receive the most agreeable News my Heart ever wished for, but, in the same Minute, I am plunged into a Despair of never seeing my dear *Richmore* again? For is it not next to an Impossibility to expect it, as he is in an Army greatly inferior

84      The SUPPOSED DAUGHTER ;

to that of the Enemy ? Besides all this, have we not had most dreadful Accounts of a Mortality that rages among them ? Her prudent Companion said all she could to comfort her, and asked me, if I was sure there were no Letters for them ? I replied, that I had looked over but few, before I met with that I had brought thither, when, not having Patience (knowing the Hand) to sort the rest, I flew to acquaint them therewith. I am of Opinion, continued she, there are some for us, by his taking Notice of their coming by the same Conveyance. I was then returning home, with a Promise, that if I should find any, I would bring them with the utmost Expedition; when I was desired by Miss *Eleanora* to leave that which I had received with them ; telling me, her Father had sent a Servant that Morning to attend the coming in of the Post. I then took my Leave, and in my Way home met Sir *Robert's* Man about a Mile from the Town, who said, he had been at my House, and was going home with his  
Master's



Master's Letters, and a very large foreign one for Mrs. *Vanmine*, which, on seeing, gave me great Pleasure.

Two Days after their receiving this Packet, I was sent for to Mrs. *Tyson's*, the Milliners, where I had many Times before, by their Order, waited on them; as the Love and Duty I always bore my young Master had effectually gained me their Confidence: And in the Enquiries they often made, whether I had yet heard of him, they would frequently mix their Tears with mine. Miss *Eleanora* would wring her Hands, and, sighing, cry, He is dead! he is dead! Some fatal Accident has deprived him of Life, or I should have heard from him ere this— My foreboding Fears convince me it is too true, and I am miserable for ever! Oh! Sir, did you but know the Constancy, Goodness and Perfections of that sweet young Lady, you would admire her Virtues as much as I do.

They told me, with great Joy, they had received Letters from Mr. *Richmore*, and had brought the Answers with them; desiring

desiring me to send them away as expeditiously and safely as possible; which I did, with one from myself; and tho' they had the good Fortune to reach him at last, it was a long Time before he received that Consolation; for we had others, dated above seven Months after they were sent, without his taking the least Notice of the Receipt of ours. Their Contents seemed to imply a Despair of hearing from his dear *Eleanora* and *Mrs. Vannine*, whom, he concluded, would have assuredly answered some of his, had they been alive; and taxed me with an Ingratitude my Heart always abhorred.

We immediately dispatched others to him, but received no Answers till full eight Months were expired. In those, he owned the Receipt of the first, which had given him infinite Pleasure. He assured us, he had writ many Times, and took every Opportunity of so doing, without being blessed with any farther Account from any of us; though he was well assured, by those which came

to his Hands, that his dear *Eleanora* had performed the Promise she therein made of answering all his Letters, tho' they had unhappily missed their Way. Mr. *Richmore* further took Notice, how precarious all Correspondence with the Army was grown, by the continual remove of it from Place to Place into Provinces sometimes remote from the Sea; by which Means several of their Couriers had fallen into the Enemy's Hands; and that, likewise, some of the Packets, and other Ships bound to *Portugal*, which had Letters on board, had been taken by *French* Privateers; therefore advised our frequent writing, not doubting, but by that Means, some would come safe; and though we complied with his Request, it was a long Time before we heard again from him.

Although the last Letter Miss *Eleanora* received, was dated soon after the fatal Battle of *Almanza*, yet it was more spirited than any of his former, which I perceived was owing to the Receipt of  
a Pack-

88      The SUPPOSED DAUGHTER ;

a Packet from her. The melancholy Accounts we had of the action near *Bri-buega*, wherein the greatest Part of the *English* Army was cut off, left us little Hopes of his Safety ; and *Eleanora* and Mrs. *Vanmine* mourned, with as true and genuine Sorrow, as though they had received the certain Tidings of his Death. The former bewailed Night and Day to that Degree, that it flung her into an Illness, which every body thought would have brought her to the Grave. Nor had we any Confirmation of Captain *Richmore's* being alive, till the Arrival of your Serjeant near three Months ago ; and to this good News I am satisfied she intirely owes the Recovery of her Health.

Captain *Richmore* was sensibly affected with this Relation. He owned himself obliged thereby, and professed an Esteem for Mr. *Trusty*, on account of his Attachment to his good Friend. The next Day, by Appointment, Mr. *Richmore* dined at Sir *Robert's*, at whose, and the Ladies Request, he gave a particular



ticular Account of the late unfortunate Battle, and several other Actions that had happened prior thereto; at which Sir *Robert* was highly delighted, and professed an ardent Desire of being enrolled among his Friends, and made many Offers of his Service. He informed him of the State and Condition of his Family, deploring the unfortunate Disorder of his dear Wife, and the unhappy Accident which occasioned it, and charging his own unkind Usage as the primary Cause of all the Distasters and Misfortunes which had befallen his Nephew abroad.

Sir *Robert* also declared his Intentions of providing handsomely for his Nephew, on his Arrival in *England*; and desired a Letter, which he gave him, might be forwarded to him as soon as possible, for he longed to embrace him in his Arms; and, indeed, said so many kind Things, that Captain *Richmore* could hardly refrain discovering himself.

The Conversation afterwards became general; when Miss *Eleanora's* judicious Observa-

Observations, delivered with such Elegance, Sweetness and Complacency, enraptured *Richmore's* Soul with so much Pleasure, that he silently in his Heart bestowed a thousand Blessings on her angelic Tongue. Sometimes stealing a full View of her lovely Person, which he surveyed with Admiration; at others, would fix his Eyes on Mrs. *Vanmine* with a reverential Awe, that plainly spoke his grateful Sentiments. On taking Leave, his Uncle's great Civility engaged his Promise of spending the following Sunday at his House.

Captain *Richmore* no sooner alighted at his Quarters, than a tall Man in a loose Horseman's Coat, and Worsted Night-cap, ran into his Arms; crying out, Dear *Bob Richmore*, shall I believe my Eyes! Yes, it is my Friend, whose Fall I verily believed, and have often mourned. How happy is the poor Cast-away in Distress, to meet so good a Friend! His well-known Voice immediately discovered him to be the worthy Major *Travanton*, when they embraced each.

each other for some Time. *Trusty*, who was at an adjacent Window, and distinctly heard all that passed, got up to run to his dear young Master, but reflecting that he might have particular Reasons for concealing his Name, he concluded to take no Notice of what he had heard at present.

Captain *Richmore* and his Friend retired into a Room, where they spent the Evening together, in recounting their several Adventures, since their Separation; but as those of the former have already been related, we shall only proceed to those of Major *Travaniou*.

I received, said he, three Wounds on the unfortunate Day of the Attack of the Enemy at *Brihuega*, and was made Prisoner. Soon after which, I was stripped naked, by some *Spanish* Dragoons, into whose Hands I fell; but two Days afterwards, I had the good Fortune of being carried before a General-officer, who behaved with great Civility, and severely reprimanded some subaltern Officers, who had the Care of the Prisoners, for their  
Inhuma-

Inhumanity, in suffering the Wounded to remain so long without any Assistance, and ordered all the Wounded to some Houses, which had been converted into a Kind of Hospital in the Town, where proper Surgeons should attend. The next Day he visited us himself, and generously supplied me, and several other Officers with Money and Necessaries; and on our Recovery, he granted Leave for our going to *Madrid*, to obtain Passports for *England*. On my Journey thither, I had the good Fortune to meet with Captain *Fitzgerald*, who, immediately recollecting me, he having seen me at a Cartel, made many Enquiries after you, and expressed the utmost Concern at your Fall, which indeed was then verily believed, I lay that Night at his Quarters; and, before I departed in the Morning, that generous Officer forced forty Pistoles upon me, altho' I assured him I could be further supplied at *Madrid*. However, I found myself mistaken when I arrived there, for the Friend I depended upon had left that City, and  
most



most of the Bankers there had refused to supply the Officers with Money on *London* Bills. Yet I was obliged to stay there more than four Months before I could obtain a Passport. A few Days after I had procured it, I set out with a bare Sufficiency of Money to carry me to *Lisbon*, where, on my Arrival, I was readily supplied with what I wanted. From thence I embarked in a Merchant's Ship of Force, for *England*, and met with extreme bad Weather in the Bay of *Biscay*, in which the Vessel sprung a Leak; when I was obliged to work many Days at the Pump, as hard as any of the Crew, to keep her above Water. We were soon after drove so far to the Northward, by a violent Storm, that it obliged us to come North about; and in a Kind of Hurricane, which happened three Days ago, her Leakage increased to such a Degree, that it was found impossible to prevent her sinking in a few Hours. This determined the Captain of the Ship, on being near the Land, to run her ashore any where, to pre-

94      THE SUPPOSED DAUGHTER;

preserve our Lives, and he made the most vigorous Efforts to reach it, and while standing in, fired Guns and made constant Signals of Distress; but it blew so hard that no Boats could put off to our Assistance, till we ran violently on the Beach, almost full of Water; then indeed, three put off, or every Soul must have perished, for the Moment the Vessel touched the Ground she overset. When I, with several others, were taken up by a Boat brought off by the Landlord of the House, where we afterwards went to, who by Gratuities encouraged the two others to do the like, by which Means every Person on board was preserved.

The Cloaths which you see on my Back, were of Mr. *Trusty's* providing (for myself and the whole Crew came naked ashore) who took us to a little Public-house near the Sea-side, refreshed us with Ale and what else could be got, and generously left Money for our present Support, till proper Measures could be taken for our Subsistence. At the  
same

same Time he gave the Commander of the Ship and me, a civil Invitation to his House, with Assurances of supplying us with what Money or Necessaries we should stand in Need of.

This humane Disposition and Behaviour to Strangers, under such Circumstances, demanded my highest Acknowledgments, and I thankfully accepted of his kind Offer; but the Commander choosing to remain with his Men, he obliged me to mount his Horse, and procured another for himself. By the Way, finding I belonged to the Army, he told me that a recruiting Captain, lately arrived from *Spain*, quartered with him, whose Name was *Johnson*. I was glad to hear it, believing it must be the *Johnson* who had served in the same Regiment with me, and on coming here, I enquired for him, and was told that neither he nor his Serjeant were within. While I was impatiently waiting to see a Brother Officer I always respected, I happily fixed my Eyes upon you, who can form a better Judgment of my Surprise

prise and Joy at that Instant, than I can express, as I little expected ever to see you again in the Land of the Living—But pray how long has *Johnson* been recruiting in these Parts?

My dear Major, said *Richmore*, laughing, for Reasons of State, I have borrowed *Johnson's* Name, without any Design of injuring it—you shall know all To-morrow—In the mean Time, remember I am identically honest *Ned Johnson*, and shall only now hint, you must be concerned in a Project of mine, wherein your Assistance will be necessary to bring about a happy Completion thereof.



## C H A P. XXXIV.

*TRUSTY* was sent for to sup with Captain *Richmore* and the Major, when the Drawer brought Word that his Master was gone to Bed much fatigued: tho' in Truth, he declined coming in for fear he should discover his Knowledge of Captain *Richmore*, before Major *Trav-*  
*nion,*



tion, but resolved he should know the next Morning, that he was no Stranger to him. In order thereto, he went early to his Chamber, before he was up, and on Pretence of having heard the Bell ring, took that Opportunity of leaving the before-mentioned Packet of his Father's Letters on the Table; when, the first View of them, convinced him his old faithful Servant had discovered him. With Eagerness he broke it open, while filial Tears gushed from his manly Eyes, and read with a reverential Regard, the pious Admonitions of a deceased Parent. But how great was his Astonishment, when an inclosed Paper informed him that *Eleanora* was not his Uncle's Daughter, but *Maria*, the only Child of Sir *William Goodman* and his Lady, Miss *Maria Wilson*, deceased! It contained a full Relation of the Means his Father had made use of, to impose her on his Brother, Sir *Robert*, as such; with the Reasons and Inducements, at that Time for so doing; together with the Difficulties he laboured under, to persuade

Mrs. *Vanmine* to concur with him therein.

The Paper concluded with a Charge, on his Blessing not to discover the Secret while his Brother had any Male Issue living, and Assurances that Mrs. *Vanmine* and Mrs. *Yeomans* the Nurse, were the only Persons privy to the Affair; and lastly, recommended the Infant *Maria* to his peculiar Regard.

Captain *Richmore* locked up his Papers, and calling for *Trusty*, closely embraced him at first Entrance, and declared, altho' he had so long concealed himself, for Reasons hereafter he should be acquainted with, that his Love and Friendship equalled that of a beloved Relation. The honest Heart of poor *Trusty* overflowed at these Words, and all he could get out in his first Emotion, was, It is enough, it is enough, that I see you well before I die! I cannot make Speeches, but you know my Life and all I have is at your Service.—Pray God make you a better Man than your Uncle—I hope you will go no more  
a fol-

a soldiering, as you are now the last of your Antient and Honourable Family. The sweet *Eleanora* loves you; and it will break my Heart as well as hers, if any other Lady has engaged your Affections. Oh! satisfy me, that you still continue constant, and I am happy.

Dear Friend, he replied, I shall rejoice in your Happiness, for be assured that lovely Maid has ever been the only Object of my Wishes, and that Faith, Love and Constancy, always rode triumphant in my Breast; nor do I desire to live a Moment after I cease to love my dear *Eleanora*. Here the Major coming into the Room, attended by a Taylor, who was come to take Measure of him, put an End to their Discourse.

After Breakfast, *Richmore* consulted Major *Travanion* on the present Posture of his Affairs, truly informing him of every Thing that had happened since his Arrival in the Kingdom; the Reception he met with from his Uncle, as Captain *Johnson*, a Friend of his Nephew's; that he had communicated to

him, as such, his kind Intention of settling a Thousand Pounds a Year on his Nephew, on leaving the Army; and that this Proposal was attended with so many affectionate Expressions of Love and Tenderneſs, that it was with Difficulty he forbore falling instantly at his Feet, and declaring the Reason for concealing himself from his Uncle's Knowledge, proceeded from a Design he had formed of rescuing him from that Fiend of Perdition, Avarice, which still raged in his Soul; being persuaded he could take more Liberty with him as a Stranger, than was becoming a Nephew, and that his late Behaviour encouraged him to conceive great Hopes of succeeding, more especially as he was happily come to his Assistance; and added, that on *Sunday* their Operations should begin, he being that Day engaged to dine at Sir *Robert's* House, and would introduce him; where and when he would see the adorable *Eleanora*, and most worthy Mrs. *Vanmine*, whose Virtues and Perfections had been so often the Subject of their

their



their Evening's Conversation ; concluding, a small Knowledge of them would force him to confess that the Originals as much exceeded his weak Description, as the Paintings of a *Raphael* do those of a mean Sign-Dauber.

The Major being acquainted with Sir *Robert's* Character, approved of his Intentions, and enquired whether the Ladies were apprized thereof ? He replied, it was impossible they should at present, as he appeared to them still as Captain *Johnson*. The Major then asked him if his Friend Captain *Wilson* was alive, and returned home with his Family ? Intimating if he was, how glad he should be to see him. *Richmore* answered, that he was then at *London*, and waited his Arrival in the Country with the utmost Impatience. They were interrupted by a Servant's bringing up Word, that Sir *Robert Richmore's* Coach and Six was at the Door ; that he and the Ladies sent their Compliments, and should be glad to see Captain *Johnson* at Mrs. *Tyson's*, over the Way.

He instantly went to them, and took Notice of the Misfortune that had befallen the Major by Shipwreck, whom, he said, he had just left. *Sir Robert* replied, that having been informed of a Wreck on the Coast, they were now going to take a View of it. And come, Captain, said he, we have a spare Place in the Coach, and shall be glad of your Company along with us. He complaisantly offered to attend them on Horseback, with the Friend, whom he intended, he said, to introduce to their Acquaintance, as a Gentleman of strict Honour and Worth. *Sir Robert* obligingly answered, he should be glad of seeing him at his House, and now one of their Party. The Captain promised they would both be ready to wait on them in half an Hour, which they accordingly did, the Major readily agreeing to the Engagement, having before been furnished with a Suit of Captain *Richmore's* Cloaths, which fitted him very well.

Thus

Thus equipped he was introduced to Sir *Robert* and the Ladies, by Mr. *Richmore*, as his particular Friend, and a Gentleman of Family and Fortune. At Sight of whom Mrs. *Vanmine* was agreeably surprised to find in him a Gentleman who had formerly made some favourable Impressions on her Virgin Heart. However, recovering herself soon, she joined with Sir *Robert* and *Eleanora* in congratulating him on his happily escaping such imminent Dangers, and safe Arrival in *England*.

*Eleanora* put both the Officers to the Blush, by an Inquiry where he left her Relation Captain *Richmore*? Mrs. *Vanmine* confessing she had an Interest in that Question, she having from his Childhood, entertained a particular Esteem for Mr. *Richmore*; tho' she supposed by this Time, Absence and new Acquaintance, had erased old Friends and Relations out of his Memory. After a little Hesitation, the Captain assured the Ladies of his not having seen him in *Spain* since the late Battle, but heard

he was well recovered of the Wounds he received in that Action ; and had Reason to believe, he would be at home very shortly. The Ladies smiled at each other, while they observed the visible Confusion the Question had caused in the two Officers ; who were pleasingly relieved by the Baronet's proposing to set out immediately.

The Weather was exceeding fine, the Sea quite calm, and the Tide out, when they came in Sight of the Wreck. As she lay on her Side, very near the Shore, and almost dry, they had a better Opportunity of viewing her. The Master and Sailors were busy in getting out and saving some of the Cargo. The former complained of the Country People's running away with every Thing portable, that was driven on shore, in Defiance of him and his Crew, and desired Assistance and Protection ; when Sir *Robert* ordered Summonses to be sent to the Neighbouring Parishes, for the Constables and Headboroughs to attend, and protect them.

The



The Major and *Richmore* distributed Money among the Men, and *Eleanora* and Mrs. *Vanmine* did the like. On going away, the Baronet insisted that the Captain and his Friend should return home with him to partake of a Buck killed a few Days before in his Park, of such incredible Fatness he said, that it measured full seven Inches deep on the Haunch. They consented, and were elegantly entertained; but what gave a Gout to all, was the charming Conversation of the Ladies. The Officers, highly pleased with their Entertainment, in the Evening took Leave, but no sooner had they quitted the House, than the Major in Raptures cried out, Dear *Richmore*, I acknowledge the Justness of the Comparison you made this Morning; and my Wonder ceases at the Perfections of your adored *Eleanora*, when I consider she was educated under the wise Auspices of *Minerva* herself; in the Person of Mrs. *Vanmine*.

Oh! my Friend, continued the Major, that lovely Woman, or rather Angel, has

inspired my Soul with the most sublime and virtuous Passion; a secret Impulse on a first View, informed my fond Heart I should be happy; for which I can no Way account, unless it proceeded from the Resemblance she bears to a young Lady, whose Aunt had formerly visited our Family in *Cornwall*, and whose dear Image I still retain: The Aunt and Neice going to *London*, suddenly prevented a full Declaration of my Passion, which I intended; tho' my Eyes, and whole Behaviour, were sufficient to express my Love, and the real Sentiments of my Heart, yet I had little Hopes of succeeding, as I was then a younger Brother, and her Fortune too considerable for my Expectations. Soon after in Despair, I accepted a Pair of Colours my Father provided for me, and went abroad

The News I received afterwards of her Marriage, joined to that of the Death of my Father, made my Return to *England* so disagreeable to me, that I withstood the pressing Instances of my Relations

lations for some Years; and when I did come home on the Peace, I was acquainted that my Charmer died a Widow. I remained quite melancholy here, and rejoiced when my Duty called me abroad again. And now, Captain, I expect to be rallied as a downright Lover, by my repeating what you are so well acquainted with, and hath been a Hundred Times the Subject of our serious Hours.

*Richmore* suddenly made a full Stop, and eagerly enquired if the Aunt's Name of his beloved Fair-one, was not *Maddox*? Most true it was, replied the Major, but pray the Reason of that Enquiry? Just Heaven, answered the Captain, how unsearchable are all the Works of Providence, who has conducted you many Years through a Series of Dangers attendant on hostile Fields, to meet at last, thus accidentally, the worthy Object of your constant Love! For be assured by me, Mrs. *Vannine* is no other than the Niece of the Widow *Maddox*, who sometimes visited her Estate in *Cornwall*, by whose Means and tyrannical

Temper, her lovely Ward was forced into an unhappy Match. On becoming a Widow, she soon after retired into this Country, and commenced a Friendship with my Family, with whom she has boarded ever since: What Obligations we all have for her Continuance with us, you know as well as I.



## C H A P. XXXV.

**T**HE Major, on this Discovery, sat some Time mute, with uplifted Hands and Eyes; at length, dismounted, and fell prostrate on the Ground, returning Thanks to Heaven for vouchsafing him again to behold the best and worthiest of her Sex, whom he had long believed was a Saint above. Adding, Oh! grant she may be mine, and I ask no more to compleat my Felicity on Earth. Their Conversation then ran on the amiable Qualifications of the Ladies, and which continued till they reached their Quarters.

The



The Major was now under the utmost Impatience for another Interview; having determined in the next to renew his former Acquaintance with his adorable Widow. A favourable Opportunity happened that Night by the Arrival of the Present aforementioned, sent to the Ladies from *Richmore*; who, with the Major attended it the next Day, at Sir *Robert's*, where it was received with great Pleasure, and opened in their Presence. *Eleanora* taking out a Parcel of Letters which appeared at the Top, smiling said, Indeed Captain *Johnson*, we must both beg your Pardon, and my Cousin's too, for surmising he had forgot us, when you said you had no Letters, as these are Evidences of our Mistake. Dear Mrs. *Vanmine* help me to unlade this Cargo, said she, certainly my Cousin had some Information we were going to be married, and has sent us Wedding-cloaths, or why this Profusion of *Italian* Brocades, and *Genoa* Velvets? It is wonderous kind! Nay, look here, continued she, this Casket bespeaks Jewels! When un-

clasping

clasping it, and finding two Pair of rich Diamond Ear-rings, she applied to them, to unfold by what Myſtery her Couſin could poſſeſs himſelf of ſuch Valuables; being ſatiſfied, no Captain's Pay could enable him to make ſuch Preſents; otherwiſe they muſt conclude, they were the Spoils and Plunder of ſome Religious Houſe, by the Quantity of Nun's-Work ſhe obſerved among them; proteſting, ſhe believed Mrs. *Vanmine's* Conſcience, no more than her own, would permit her to make any Uſe thereof, until ſhe was convinced that neither Fraud nor Rapine had a Hand in procuring them.

This unexpected Queſtion and Declaration quite diſconcerted them, as Mrs. *Vanmine* likewise inſiſted on the ſame Thing, who deſired, either the Major or Captain would answer to the Queſtion. The Major replied, his Knowledge of Captain *Richmore* induced him to believe, that no diſhonourable, or diſhoneſt Methods were employed by him, and was extremely ſorry they ſhould entertain the leaſt Diffidence on that Account.

count. Nay, possibly, said *Eleanora* to Mrs. *Vanmine*, his Letters may fully explain this Enigma; we shall have Time to read them To-morrow, being, at present, engaged to Dinner with Mrs. *Wilson*, and the Coach being at the Door, we must beg the Gentlemens Pardon for leaving them: My Father dines at home, and, I am assured, will be glad of your Company, Gentlemen, to spend the Day with him.

Without waiting for a Reply, the Ladies dropt each of them a Curtsy, and whipp'd into the Coach, laughing heartily at the Prank they had played, and leaving the Lovers nettled and confounded at what had passed; each reading Confusion and Disappointment in the other's Countenance. They soon mounted their Horses to return home, but meeting Sir *Robert* near his own House, they were prevailed on to return back, by his declaring, it was an Act of Charity to grant him their Company, as he was alone.

In

In the Afternoon, over a Bottle, they fell into Discourse on many moral Topics; particularly, among others, of Charity, Content, and the true Use of Riches; which introduced the following Story of a *Castilian* Nobleman, who had honoured Captain *Richmore* with his Acquaintance, and often entertained at his *Villa*, which was a spacious old Castle, long possessed by his Ancestors. He acquainted them, that the *Castilian* avoided all Pomp and Parade of Quality, and constantly discountenanced all that ostentatious Ceremony, Attention and Deference, so commonly observed by others, and in which they suppose the great Glory of their exalted Station consists: That he devoted the greater Part of his Hours to Retirement, to the Study of Virtue and true Wisdom, and the rest, in finding real Objects of his Charity; the Receivers of which, generally, were the only Persons acquainted with his bestowing it. Several reduced Families, and antient People, were obliged to him for their daily Bread, and great Numbers



bers of the neighbouring Youth, either provided for by his Interest, or put to Trades, whereby they might get an honest Living.

To give a particular Instance of his Greatness of Soul, pursued Captain *Richmore*, I must mention what was told me by a Gentleman of Veracity, who had himself recommended a young Man of Worth to his Charity, then in Prison, in consequence of an Obligation entered into, to preserve his Father from one. A few Days after, he said, the young Gentleman came to tell him the Result of his Application in his Favour: when he thought he read in his Face a Satisfaction that had been long a Stranger there. The young Gentleman then informed him, that the Nobleman had found Means of discharging the Debt he was confined for, and that, at the same time, he had received an additional Sum, sufficient for all immediate Purposes, and was told, he might wait on the Person to whom he owed his Liberty, with his Thanks; that accordingly

ingly he went, and paid them on his Knees, when his Tears spoke what no Words can express; that his Patron raised him from the Ground, saying, Since you was first mentioned to me, Sir, I have heard much of your Story and Character, and am grieved that a Man of your Worth should be so long distressed; and shall always esteem the Person that gave me an Opportunity of serving you.

Looks, such as *Guido's* Pencil never expressed, were all the Youth could return to such a Declaration. Great Gratitude, like great Griefs, is silent; but the Eloquence of Eyes, swimming in Floods of Thankfulness, strikes deeper on a Heart capable of discerning it, than all the Rhetoric of *Cicero*. You must not imagine, continued his Benefactor, that I desired to see you for the Ostentation of being thanked, or that I can suppose I have deserved it, if I only relieve you from one Distress, to let you fall into another; tell me, therefore, what I can do that will give you continued Happiness.

Astonish-

Astonishment now sealed the Lips of the Obliged, as firmly as Gratitude had done before, while the Patron of his Fortune put into his Hands a Sum sufficient to purchase a Commission; the only Post he judged proper for a Man of Family, and personal Merit, brought up to no Employ. And this very Gentleman, by his Services, now commands a Regiment. He concluded with assuring me, continued *Richmore*, he could enumerate many more Instances of his Charity and Benevolence, but thought this last enough to give me a true Idea of his Goodness of Heart.

And now, Gentlemen, let us consider, what must be the inward Content of Mind of the Man, who rises conscious every Day, of having, on that before, given as much to the Necessities of the honest Unfortunate, as others have lost at Play, or squandered upon Mistresses! If the World would pay a just Attention to the Differences there are between Pleasures which rejoice us on the Remembrance, and such as we are, or  
ought

116 The SUPPOSED DAUGHTER;

ought to be ashamed of, on Recollection, we should have Numbers reform, even on the Principles of Prudence, who are not to be brought to it out of a Regard to Virtue.

What Difference must there be in the Sensations that arise in the Breast of him, who, on his meeting, many Years afterwards, the Man whose Fortune he has made, raised to a higher Post for Services done his Country in the Field, where, without his Assistance, he could never have appeared; and those of the abandoned Wretch who calls himself a Man of Pleasure, on meeting the Woman reduced to a common Prostitute, on the Destruction of whose Innocence he employed as considerable a Sum! And though it is not in every Man's Power to do Acts of such noble Generosity, yet it is in every one's to do something. If Mankind could be prevailed on to retrench from their Vices, the Expences they are certain to be ashamed and sorry for the Effect of, and to employ them in Emulation of this truly Nobleman's Example,



Example, we might be assured of seeing a much smaller Number of the unhappy than crowd upon us at present.

The Major was so charmed with the *Castilian's* Character, and the Captain's Manner of moralizing upon it, that he cried out in an Extasy, Prithee, *Johnson*, lay down the Sword and put on the Gown; you will soon make your Fortune by it, for if Merit has any Weight with the Church, you cannot fail of being soon a Right Reverend. Sir *Robert*, who had also been very attentive, said, he suspected the Story to be ideal only, though he thought himself much obliged to the Captain for the Relation, and his Observations thereon; but, on Assurances it was a real One, he confessed, he could not help thinking, that the Gratifications arising in such a Man's Heart, must create an Infinity of Pleasure.

It is probable, Sir, continued the Baronet, you may not know how nearly your Discourse has affected me, nor how greatly I am touched at the *Castilian's* Story.

118    The SUPPOSED DAUGHTER;

Story. Oh, Recollection! how uncomfortable and mortifying art thou, when thou can'st not present one charitable and humane Action to View! Avarice, with all thy deadly Train of Ills, this Moment I banish from my Soul; and vow, before you, to make full Restitution to every Person injured by my late Father-in-law, or myself; and, when this is done, shall entertain Hopes of Forgiveness.

*Richmore*, not able to contain the Fulness of his Joy, at this sudden, and almost miraculous Reformation, with Tears, which, like a Torrent, burst from his Eyes, in an Extasy fell at his Feet; crying out, Dear Uncle, pardon a Nephew for thus long imposing himself on you as a Stranger—And Oh, let me not enjoy less of your Favour, by laying down the Name of *Johnson*, and taking that of *Bob Richmore*!

*Richmore*! cried Sir *Robert*, raising him up, and embracing him in his Arms; and is it suffered me thus to find my Nephew in so valuable a Friend?

Oh,

Oh, Heavens! it is too much!—Here Joy stopped his Mouth, and found a Passage at his Eyes, which prevented him some Minutes from speaking. The Scene was so tender, that the Major's Cheeks were also bedewed with the same friendly Tears. *Eleanora* and Mrs. *Vanmine* returning from their Visit, entered the Room, and seemed greatly alarmed at finding them all in silent Tears. Good Heavens, said the former, sympathizing, what severe Affliction has befallen my dear Father? Alas! I dread to ask. Oh, my dear Daughter, replied he; these are not Tears of Affliction, but refreshing Showers of Joy, and inexpressible Satisfaction, at the Metamorphosis of Captain *Johnson* into your Cousin *Richmore*! Nor does it arise from that alone; his Conversation, with that of his worthy Friend, has awakened my avaricious Soul from its Lethargy, and inspired Sentiments befitting human Nature, which that fordid Passion had long driven from my Breast. Mrs. *Vanmine*, as well as you, I am assured,

fured, will rejoice with me at this wonderful Change in my uncharitable and savage Disposition, tho'. I acknowledge, I owe much to both your Merits, in having frequently prepared me for it, by entering into Subjects of moral Virtues, Charity, Benevolence, and Love of our Fellow-Creatures, in my Presence; and, altho' they failed of producing a Reformation, yet they had their Weight, in having often occasioned severe Conflicts in my Breast, which amounted to a Conviction of my Errors; but the inordinate Love of Money still got the better, and stifled all Thoughts of Amendment till this happy Day.



## C H A P. XXXVI.

AFTER Sir *Robert* had received the joint Congratulations of the Company for the generous Resolutions he had taken, he presented his Nephew  
to



to *Eleanora* and Mrs. *Vanmine*, telling them, they well knew how ardently he wished his Return, and his Intentions of sending for him: Then leading the Major up to salute the Ladies, declared, how greatly his Happiness would be increased, if he would condescend, with his Nephew, to make his House a Place of Residence, while he continued in that Part of the Country; to which the Major obligingly consented.

While *Richmore* was making Apologies, and entertaining *Eleanora* apart, with his Reasons for taking a borrowed Name, which she highly approved of, as it had been productive of such desirable Consequences, the Major took that Opportunity (as Sir *Robert* was retired) to acquaint Mrs *Vanmine*, that he should always look on his Shipwreck as the greatest Blessing of his Life; since, by that Means, he had the Satisfaction of seeing again a Lady, he had long believed an Inhabitant of the Realms above. Then added, On Recollection, Madam, you will surely remember *Harry*

*Travanion*, as yourself and Aunt, when in *Cornwall*, honoured our Family with a particular Intimacy. You was then about Fourteen, and I about Five Years your Senior ; and you cannot forget how often you have condescended to be my Partner in Country Dances, and ravished my Soul with your Music. Dear Madam, believe a Soldier, untrained in the deluding Arts of Courtiers or Lovers, and who despises a Falsehood, when he solemnly declares, you then inspired him with a virtuous and constant Passion, which neither your Marriage soon after, nor the Account he afterwards received of your Widowhood and Decease could remove. The Despair I was in on this last Information, induced me to accept a Pair of Colours, and I went abroad with a Resolution of keeping your dear Image in my Heart, and thereby prevent my ever embarking in a second Passion ; which I have still inviolably kept, and shall to the last Period of my Life.

Mrs. *Vanmine*, in some Confusion, owned she knew him perfectly at the  
first

first Interview, and was obliged to him for his kind Sentiments; but hoped, as many Years had passed over their Heads, and Circumstances and Affairs were now quite altered with her, he would not endeavour to disturb the Tranquility of Mind she enjoyed.

Sir *Robert's* Return, with *Eleanora's* and *Richmore's* advancing towards them, the Conversation became general; when the Major took Notice to Sir *Robert* of his having had the Happiness of Mrs. *Vanmine's* Acquaintance, before his going into the Army, and of his Joy and Astonishment in finding her there, after an Information of her Death, some Years before. The Evening was spent agreeably, in conversing on many pleasing Subjects. On breaking up, the Major and *Richmore* walked in the Garden, recounting to each other whatever had passed between them and their Mistresses in Sir *Robert's* Absence, by which it appeared, that neither of those Gentlemen were unknown at first Sight. *Richmore* acknowledged the Justness of

124 The SUPPOSED DAUGHTER;

*Eleanora's* Treatment of his Present, while he appeared an Impostor, and she not privy to his Designs; and heartily forgave her, and Mrs. *Vanmine*, for the Blushes they had often put them to, by their Enquiries. He said, the Major had Reason to be highly satisfied with the Discovery his lovely Widow had made, for he might be assured, the Disorder his Presence occasioned, did not proceed from Dislike, or a cold Indifference. As it grew late, *Richmore* forbore to acquaint him with a Secret labouring in his Breast, but desired he would meet him the next Morning in the same Walk, to advise his Friend what was proper to be done in an Affair of great Moment.

In the Morning, Captain *Richmore* put his Father's Packet into the Major's Hands, begging he would peruse them, and give his Opinion how he should act; which the other promising to do, he then left him, and pursued his Way up the Walk. On the Turn, he met Mrs. *Vanmine* and *Eleanora*, and joining them,



them, took the Path which led to the Place where the Major was reading; who, on their Approach, hastily put up the Papers in his Pocket, which *Eleanora* observing, pleasantly said, Accident, and not Design, she feared, had made them guilty of ill Manners, by disturbing his Solitude, while he might be agreeably entertained with the Perusal of a *Billet-doux* from some Spanish Mistress. He replied, Indeed, Madam, you are mistaken; yet I will frankly own, I have a Mistress, whom I have long loved, with the most virtuous and constant Passion, and who is endued with all the Virtues and Accomplishments of her Sex. Heaven in sending her here, Madam, vouchsafed to shew the World what Woman should be: But neither *Spain*, nor any other foreign Land can boast of so fair a Production. Captain *Richmore* averred the Truth of the Major's Assertion; adding, he knew but one other in the Universe, who could justly stand in Competition with her admirable Virtues. This

126    The SUPPOSED DAUGHTER ;

Speech of *Richmore's* brought the Colour into *Eleanora's* Face, and dyed it with as deep a Vermillion as that of the Major's had done Mrs. *Vanmine's* a little before. The Ladies retired with some little Confusion, and owned, to one another, they were justly served, as having brought the Conversation on themselves.

When they were gone, *Richmore* and his Friend retired to a private Part of the Garden, that they might more freely converse ; when the Major expressed himself greatly at a Loss to give any Opinion on a Matter of such Importance, and enquired, if he was well assured, that no Collusion was made use of, and that the whole was wrote in his Father's Hand ? To the first, he answered, it was impossible there could be any, as *Trusty* had informed him soon after his Father's Death, that he had such to deliver when he came of Age : As to the second, he was certain every Letter of it was his Father's Hand-writing, and believed, if Mrs. *Vanmine* was to be  
con-

consulted, her Truth and Honour would undoubtedly clear up all, and her Prudence direct what should farther be done; for he dreaded, he said, so much the Consequences that might attend his Uncle's Knowledge of being Childless, that for his Peace of Mind, he was almost persuaded, it was his Duty to conceal the Secret. So they concluded, after mature Consideration, to suspend the disclosing a Matter, that might be productive of fatal Events.

Captain *Richmore*, in looking over the Papers which the Major had returned him, missed that particular one that regarded *Eleanora*, and, in a Fright, they instantly made their Way to the Bench, where the Major had before been surprised by the Ladies, while he was reading, judging it must be dropped there: But, to their great Surprise, they found Sir *Robert* sitting on the Bench, in a musing and thoughtful Posture, who could not help observing them intently looking for something lost. This cleared up the Perplexity he had been under, how the

aforementioned Paper should so accidentally fall into his Hands. He told them he knew full well what they sought after, having a little before, read the just Decrees of Fate, in the Hand-writing of his dear Brother deceased, to which he was entirely resigned ; adding, My dear Nephew, unfold by what Mystery, how long since, and by whom, this Information was delivered to you.

He truly informed his Uncle of every Particular, and delivered to him the rest of the Packet : In the perusing of which, a Flood of silent Tears trickled down his Cheeks ; saying, The just Admonitions of so good a Father to his Son, was his Admiration : And these Tears, continued he, which you now see me shed, proceed alone from a Recollection of my own Cruelty and Barbarity to such a Brother and his Issue, and not, that for my Crimes, I am deprived of all. Oh, *Maria*, though no longer *Eleanora*, you are still equally dear to me ; and your own Virtue and Worth are sufficient to continue you so, had I  
not



not a thousand other Inducements for a true paternal Affection. He then asked his Nephew, whether he had remarked the tender Manner in which his Father recommended the Infant Orphan to his Care? I doubt not but you have, continued he, therefore, I conceive, that what I am going to propose, will not be disagreeable, as it tends, in some Measure, to the fulfilling his last Injunction; and, besides, will acquit me of an Incumbent Duty I owe to the deceased Parents of the deserving *Maria*.—Say, my good Nephew, can you accept the lovely Maid for a faithful Bride? *Richmore* eagerly answered, With the same Thankfulness a condemned Criminal receives Mercy, and blesses the bountiful Preserver of his Life. At this Declaration, his Uncle hung on his Neck, multiplying Benedictions on his Head. The Major, who had remained a Spectator only, during the whole of this affecting Scene, heartily rejoiced at the happy Conclusion; and informed Sir *Robert* of all that had passed in the Morning be-

tween them, and the Resolution finally taken to conceal the Secret, had not Providence, by the singular Means of dropping the Paper, thought fit to reveal it. He was of Opinion, to prevent the Shock it might possibly give the dutiful *Maria*, it should not be immediately divulged ; which they approving, agreed it should still remain a Secret.

Whether the seeing our Friends Wishes accomplished, or it is a Frailty in human Nature to complain of our own Infelicity on those Occasions, I know not, but the Major acquainted Sir *Robert* with every Circumstance of his Love to Mrs. *Vanmine*, from his Youth to that Time ; and likewise with his late Declaration of his Passion, with her Answer, which he said, had almost driven him to despair ; and implored his Interest, that he would kindly influence Miss *Eleanora*, to become an Advocate in his Behalf. The Major had scarce Time to receive Sir *Robert's* generous Assurances of so doing, before they were called in to Dinner.

As

As soon as it was over, the Baronet made an Apology for leaving them, being obliged, he said, to meet his Brother Justices on some County Affairs. When he was gone, Captain *Richmore* informed the Ladies of the Major's being a good Performer on several Instruments, particularly the Violin, and proposed a Concert among themselves; observing, although he was diffident of his own Ability, he would endeavour to join with them, as well as he could. They courteously consenting, Mrs. *Vanmine* sat down to the Harpsichord, and *Eleanora's* inimitable Fingers touched the melodious Lute, to which the Violin and Flute being joined, they raised a delightful Harmony between them.

They had played near two Hours, when they were acquainted that Mrs. *Wilson's* Coach was driving into the Court-yard. Dear Mrs. *Vanmine*, said *Eleanora*, be so good as to step down, and detain her a few Minutes below, to give me an Opportunity of hinting to the Gentlemen something concerning that  
 G 6 Lady.

Lady. She is Wife, Cousin, to your good Friend Mr. *Wilson*. She has all the valuable Qualifications of our Sex, and blessed with a Sweetness of Temper and chearful Disposition, that charm every Body. Our Intimacy began, on the first Visit we paid them on their Arrival here, near three Years ago. The truly affectionate Manner in which this happy Couple live, with the tender Regard they both shew to their lovely Offspring, which consists of no less than twelve Children, together with an uncommon Benevolence to the Neccessitous, entitles them to the general Love and Esteem of the whole Country. Mrs. *Vanmire* and I are so enamoured with her Virtue and Prudence, that we have often freely declared in his Presence, how greatly we valued him for his Goodness, and how highly he stood in our Esteem. From thence, and from a peculiar Regard he has always shewed me, Mrs. *Wilson* has constantly since merrily called me her *little Rival*, and you Cousin *Richmore*, her dear Preserver  
and



and Lover : Nay, she has promised a Hundred Times, if Heaven grants her an Opportunity of seeing you, that she will dwell on your Lips, till she has almost smothered you with her Kisses ; and as she knows not yet who you are — but mum — I hear her coming up.

Mrs. *Wilson* soon entered, with her eldest Daughter, a young Lady about fifteen. After the usual Compliments she tapt *Eleanora* on the Shoulder with her Fan, and said, Oh, I have News to tell you, little Rival, our dear good Man will reach home by Dinner To-morrow, and I am come on purpose to engage your Company, as it will give him Pleasure. Pray Gentlemen, am I not an obliging Wife ? And would any Body but myself, believe, that all the Fondness which passes between this Lady and my Husband, proceeds, as he pretends, from her being the very Likeness of a beloved Sister long since deceased ? However, indeed Rival, you must not deny me, and I should be glad you could

134 THE SUPPOSED DAUGHTER;

could prevail on Sir *Robert*, and these Gentlemen also, to accompany you. It would be adding to the Obligation, I assure you, as you cannot imagine, the Height of Satisfaction my Husband will enjoy, on seeing any Body from *Spain*, as I am informed these Gentlemen are, and acquainted with our dear Friend Captain *Richmore*; whom may Heaven preserve, and send safe among us, and you shall then see, Rival, I'll be as good as my Word — You both know my Meaning. They smiled, nor could the Officers hardly forbear laughing.

*Eleanora* replied, You may be assured I would lose no Opportunity of seeing my beloved; and nothing, but my Father's Absence from home, prevents me from instantly accepting your kind Invitation. Not that I am in the least Doubt of obtaining his Leave, but have made it a constant Rule, never to engage myself any where without it. Then turning to the Gentlemen, said, she was persuaded the Acquaintance they would be introduced to, would make ample Amends.

mends for their taking a Ride with them. They bowed, and declared they thought themselves honoured by the Proposal.

Mrs. *Wilson*, after making Acknowledgments, insisted on their proceeding in the charming Music her Impertinence had interrupted; for that she was determined to stay till Sir *Robert's* Return, which happened sooner than was expected. At whose first Entrance Mrs. *Wilson* informed him of her Errand; saying, she came on purpose to invite them all to Dinner on the Morrow; and hoped, as she had already obtained a conditional Promise from his Daughter, Mrs. *Vanmine*, and the Gentlemen, he would not refuse his Company to make it absolute.

Well Major, said the Baronet, what say you to it? For I am sure of my Nephew *Richmore's* Readiness to fly into the Arms of his good Friend. This Discovery occasioned the utmost Joy and Surprise in Mrs. *Wilson*, who ran hastily towards the Captain, crying out, The Almighty has at last granted my ardent

dent Prayer! Accept, dear Preserver, the Thanks of her whose Heart is truly grateful; of her, who with her whole Family, owe their present Happiness to you. And believe me, most worthy young Man, the Orisons of the loving Pair you saved from Destruction, have daily been sent up to Heaven, in Conjunction with the little uplifted Hands of their innocent Babes, for your Health and Safety. Then clinging about his Neck, tenderly bestowed many endearing Embraces, calling aloud on her Daughter to do the Like; to whom *Richmore* advanced, as soon as disengaged from the Mother, declaring, however Chance had thrown it in his Way to be serviceable to Mr. *Wilson*, that their Love and Friendship greatly outweighed any Merit such an accidental Assistance might either claim or deserve. After many other Expressions of Family Obligations, Mrs. *Wilson* took Leave in high Spirits, full of the pleasing Expectation of seeing her Husband and Friends the next Day.



## C H A P. XXXVII.

AS the Evening was exceeding pleasant, and the Sun near setting, it was proposed by the Gentlemen to take a Walk in the Garden, to which *Eleanora* and Mrs. *Vanmine* consenting, promised to join them there, after visiting Lady *Richmore*, whom they had not seen since Dinner. The Mention of whose Name brought a heavy Sigh from Sir *Robert*. Oh! Nephew, said he, could your skilful *Spanish* Widow, whom you have often given me Hopes of seeing in *England*, recover my dear Wife from the deplorable Condition in which she has long languished, I could still be happy.

Captain *Richmore* declared his Concern and Surprise at not hearing from her, and was under many anxious Fears on her Account, adding, the Directions he gave her to find him in *London*, was at his Aunt's House (not knowing then any Thing of her Death) at *Berwick*. Tho' by the Care he had taken at the Post-Office,

138 The SUPPOSED DAUGHTER ;

Office, to leave all Letters directed for him at her House, or elsewhere, forwarded here, he was induced to believe none had come, or he should have received them, as well as others from some Officers he had left behind him in the same Kingdom; and now should think himself inexcusable, if he longer deferred sending Serjeant *Webb*, to the Merchant's at *Lisbon*, at whose House the Widow was to reside, during her Stay in that City, with Orders for his proceeding to *Spain*, in case he heard nothing of her there; and likewise to attend her in her Voyage hither. His Uncle and the Major having approved his Proposal, he declared the utmost Impatience for her Arrival, as she had many Times given him Hopes of restoring his ever-honoured Aunt to a perfect State of Health, as she had done several others in similar Disorders, by a Medicine prepared by her late Husband.

Two Days afterwards, when Serjeant *Webb* was ready to set out for *Portugal*, Captain *Richmore* had the Pleasure of receiving

receiving a Letter from the Widow, which in an Extacy of Joy he read to Sir *Robert*. It informed him of her landing safe in *London*, three Days before the Date, with her Daughter and Effects; that she had been greatly perplexed and troubled by the Answer she received from the Message she had sent to his Aunt's House; which was, that no such Person lived in the Street or thereabouts; that however, the Commander of the Vessel, which had brought her to *England*, was so civil as to go himself with her, according to the Direction, and got Information, that a Lady, whose Name was *Richmore*, died four or five Years before, and were shewn where she lived; that on going to the House, she was told by the Tenant thereof, that an Officer had been there, and desired the Favour, that any Enquirers for Captain *Richmore* might be told, he was gone to *Berwick*; that this welcome News soon raised her Spirits, and she hoped to see him on the *Saturday* following the next; having taken Places in the Stage-coach, which she

She was acquainted would reach *Berwick* on that Day.

It is impossible to describe the Satisfaction this Letter created. Sir *Robert* ran to his Lady's Apartment, to acquaint *Eleanora* and Mrs. *Vanmine* therewith. From thence he returned with them to the Officers in the Garden, where each congratulated one another on the agreeable Event, and agreed to meet Mrs. *Cordosa* and her Daughter a Day's Journey, as well to do them Honour on their coming into the Country, as to have the Pleasure of conducting them to *Richmore-ball*.

Miss *Eleanora* observing a Sign from her Father to follow him, he conducted her from the Company, into a Walk that led to a retired Alcove in the Wood. When they had sat down, he began, My dear *Eleanora*, my paternal Fondness is too well known to you to need any fresh Assurances of it, nor am I less pleased with the Returns of your Love and Duty; yet your Reluctancy to enter into the Marriage-state, has given me great Un-



Uneasiness. You have the Promise of an indulgent Father, never to oblige you to it against your Inclination; therefore I intreat my dear *Eleanora*, to look with Eyes of Compassion on my deserving Nephew; return his ardent Love, and you will bless him and a fond Parent, whose Happiness, in a great measure, depends on seeing you worthily matched to a Man of his Sense, Honour and Truth.

Successive Blushes covered *Eleanora's* Face, while she answered, Honoured Sir, I have, from a Child capable of distinguishing Good from Evil, ever revered my Cousin's Virtue, and admired his improving Conversation; and the Relation we bear to each other, justifies me in the Confession. As the Will of Heaven, and your Commands concur to make me his Wife, I am all Obedience; yet dread entering into a State that may impede a constant Attendance on my dear Mother. Sir *Robert* took her to his Arms, bidding her hope for the best, as the *Spanish* Lady would be soon with them; repeating, that his Felicity depended

depended much on her Success, and assuring her, the pleasing Sensations which arose in his Breast, from all these promising and happy Circumstances, inspired a secret Joy in his Soul; adding, he should take this Opportunity of acquitting himself of a Promise made to Major *Travanton*, to whom she well knew he was greatly obliged: Nor was she a Stranger to his Merit, or the virtuous Friendship that subsisted between his Nephew and him; the Sincerity of whose Passion for Mrs. *Vanmine*, added he, is evident, from his never embarking in any other, since their first Acquaintance; and my Request to you, my Love, is, that you would kindly assist his honourable Intentions, by becoming an Advocate for him to your discreet Friend.

The dutiful Assurances she gave Sir *Robert*, that any Intimations of his Will ever had the Force of a Command with her, pleased him exceedingly; which he let her know, by many endearing Expressions. Then taking her by the  
Hand,

Hand, led her back to join the Company, whom they found engaged in a Conversation on sublime Love, abstracted from interested Views, or gross Ideas. The Divinity of that pure Passion, the Major (who had introduced the Subject) endeavoured to prove of heavenly Original; the great Creator having drop'd down some Sparks of it on our first Parents. To support which he repeated that celebrated Description in *Milton*,

Under his forming Hands a Creature grew,  
Manlike, but different Sex, so lovely fair,  
That what seem'd fair in all the World, seem'd  
now  
Mean, or in her summ'd up, in her contain'd.  
And in her Looks, which from that Time  
infus'd  
Sweetness into my Heart, unfelt before,  
And into all Things, from her Air inspir'd  
The Spirit of Love and amorous Delight.  
She disappear'd and left me dark; I wak'd  
To find her, or for ever to deplore  
Her Loss, and other Pleasures all abjure:  
When out of Hope, behold her not far off,  
Such as I saw her in my Dream, adorned  
With what all Earth or Heaven could bestow  
To

144      THE SUPPOSED DAUGHTER;

To make her amiable : On she came,  
 Led by her heav'nly Maker, tho' unseen,  
 And guided by his Voice, nor uninform'd  
 Of Nuptial Sanctity and Marriage Rites :  
 Grace was in all her Steps, Heav'n in her Eye,  
 In every Gesture, Dignity and Love.

The Major concluded by saying, that the Love which *Adam* then bore to our general Mother, was truly angelic ; and that he verily believed, no Mortals could participate of the Happiness the superior Order of Beings enjoy without imitating them in that social Love which constitutes a great Part of their blissful State ; and that Men, incapable of being inspired by that divine Passion, were more rude and savage than the fiercest Inhabitants of the *Arabian Woods*.

Mrs. *Vanmine* observed, if he intended by his Argument, to prove, that divine Love to our Creator, general Charity, and Respect to our Fellow-creatures, were essentially necessary to happiness, she acquiesced to his Reasons ; but if he meant to apply it to particular Persons, she was of Opinion, he had undertaken  
 a difficult



a difficult Task, unless he could persuade the World, the Passions were no Way influenced by Self-love, or any other personal Gratifications whatsoever.

Captain *Richmore*, smiling, took Notice, he thought the Lady had not done strict Justice to the Argument; that in his Apprehension, sublime Love and Friendship were the Height of all human Perfections our Nature could be capable of enjoying; that where those virtuous Passions were reciprocal, our terrestrial Abodes nearly resembled the celestial; and were it not for that Band of Love, with which the all-wise Creator has encircled our Hearts, every Kingdom in this great Universe would fall into Rapine, Violence, Confusion and Anarchy; and, thereby, not only deprive us of all earthly Felicity, but make our Habitations in this World intolerable, unhappy and miserable.

*Eleanora* laughed heartily; saying, she could not refrain, on hearing how seriously they reasoned on a Topic which she supposed was begun with no other

Design than to ridicule the Follies of the Age; adding, Come, Mrs. *Vanmine*, let us go in, the Evening grows cool, and give the Gentlemen an Opportunity of exerting their Wit and Talents another Time.

Soon after Supper, the two Ladies retired; for *Eleanora* longed to impart the Conversation that had passed between her Father and herself in the Garden; which she did, without forgetting his last Charge in favour of Major *Travanton*. Oh! *Eleanora*, replied Mrs. *Vanmine*, Heaven is Witness of the exceeding Joy I feel at the near Approach of your happy Union with the most deserving of Mankind, who alone is worthy of you; but as to what concerns his generous Friend and myself, I am at a Loss to express my real Sentiments; though thus much, in Justice to his Merit, must acknowledge, that had Providence in my juvenile Years, joined our Hearts and Hands in honourable Wedlock, I verily believe we might both have been happy. But *now*—

Pray,

Pray, my dear, dear Mrs. *Vanmine*, interrupted *Eleanora*, what mean you by the *Now*? Shall I hear the still beautiful Widow plead her Age to a sincere faithful Lover, without answering? No, I must put you in mind of what you have so often declared, that you was just Eighteen when I was born; *my* Twenty added to it, makes the Whole but Thirty-eight. Strangers, you know, more than once, have taken us for Sisters; nay, no Mortal, by Appearance, would judge you had ever seen Five and Twenty. Duty to my Father, Compassion to the Major's constant Love, together with the inviolable Friendship I have for you, are all strong Inducements for my interesting myself in your Happiness; and I may, with the same Truth, say of him, what you did of my Cousin *Richmore*, that I know none who is truly worthy of you but himself.

Mrs. *Vanmine* desired the Discourse on that Head might be dropped for the present, she having a momentous Secret to disclose; the whole of which, said

148 THE SUPPOSED DAUGHTER;

She, my dear *Eleanora*, regards you, and is contained in the sealed Paper I gave to you some Years ago, with a Charge not to break it open till after my Decease. A Duplicate of it is in the Hands of Sir *Robert Richmore*, likewise sealed, which he believes to be my Will. As Affairs are circumstanced at present, and so near a Crisis, I recommend it to your immediate Perusal, as it will fully answer the End of my relating the Contents to you. In the mean time, I will remain near you in my Closet, though perfectly satisfied your Prudence and Fortitude are sufficient Guards against any ill Consequence that may attend the Disclosure.

This serious Prologue caused some Emotions in the Heart of *Eleanora*, yet, conscious of her own Innocency, Virtue and Truth, she instantly fetched the Paper, and read it with a serene Composure: Every Paragraph was so plain and explicit, that no Room was left for Doubt, or further Enquiry; nor were there omitted the strong and prevalent Reasons



Reasons that induced Mrs. *Vanmine* to join with Captain *Richmore's* Father, in imposing *Eleanora* on his Brother Sir *Robert*, as his Daughter, on the Decease of his own Child in the Month: And, lastly, it informed her, that the several Calamities and Afflictions with which the Family had been visited, prevented her making a Discovery of a Secret which she feared, under such Circumstances, would have proved fatal to Sir *Robert*, in Consideration of being deprived, by such Information, of all Issue, and a darling Daughter, in whom alone he placed his Felicity.

On Mrs. *Vanmine's* returning into the Room again, *Eleanora* fetched a deep Sigh, while silent Drops successively fell from her Eyes. I have, dear Madam, said she, observed, as often as you have recounted the fatal Catastrophe of your good Friends, and my dear Parents (although unknown to me to be such, till this Hour) involuntary Tears to force their Way, during the melancholy Relation. Therefore you cannot be surpris-

150 THE SUPPOSED DAUGHTER;

fed, to see them now plentifully flow from me. The filial Duty I owe to such Virtues, in some Measure justifies my Grief; yet the religious Consideration, that they must have received the full Rewards of a well spent Life, causes a tumultuous Joy in my Soul: But my Concern is inexpressible, how my dear Father (for I must still call him so) will be affected by the Discovery—Alas! I tremble at the Consequence.

Mrs. *Vanmine* advised the leaving the Care of that to Providence; she being persuaded, Heaven, that had wrought such a Reformation in his Principles, had likewise inspired his Heart with a Christian Resignation; and that, in the Morning, she would take the same Means of informing him with every Particular, as she had already done her, by desiring Sir *Robert* to read the same Narrative, which, as she before observed, had been long in his Custody; and then added, My dear *Maria* (you will excuse me for calling you by that beloved Name) your heroic and just Behaviour

haviour on this Occasion, has answered my Expectations; be not anxious about Consequences; I am the only Person living blameable. If there is a Crime in the Collusion, I hope I shall be forgiven, as it proceeded from Motives, which I thought both just and commendable.

In the Morning, before Breakfast, Mrs. *Vanmine* waited on Sir *Robert* in his Study, and was well pleased to find his Nephew, the Captain, with him. On Enquiry what Commands brought her there so early, she declared, her Intentions were to request, that he and Captain *Richmore* would immediately peruse a sealed Parcel she had delivered to Sir *Robert* a few Years before, and instantly retired.

These sealed Papers contained the same Discoveries that had been made by those of the deceased Mr. *Richmore*; and so minutely alike were they with Regard to Facts, that they seemed to have been wrote by the same Person, at one and the same Time; though Mrs.

152      THE SUPPOSED DAUGHTER;  
*Vanmine's* was something fuller, as it  
assigned prudential Reasons for not di-  
vulging the important Secret, during the  
melancholy Situation of the Family.



C H A P. XXXVIII.

**A**S Major *Travani* had been sent  
for to be present at the reading  
of Mrs. *Vanmine's* Account, they en-  
tered into a Consultation of what was  
proper to be done; not doubting, but  
*Eleanora* had been truly informed of e-  
very thing. The Result was, that Sir  
*Robert Richmore* should send a Servant  
with his Compliments to Mrs. *Vanmine*,  
and desire her Company a few Minutes  
in his Closet. When she came, they ac-  
quainted her with their Knowledge of  
the whole Transaction, and the Means  
by which the Secret came into Captain  
*Richmore's* Hands; the providential Dis-  
covery thereof to Sir *Robert*, the resign-  
ed Manner in which he behaved, and  
the tender and affectionate Declaration  
he



he made thereupon; and also of a Resolution they had taken, of behaving to each other as if no such Discovery had happened, till the happy Day of their Nuptials should arrive; that then, Sir *Robert* himself would properly make a suitable Declaration, and begged she would apprise *Eleanora* thereof, and prevail on her to acquiesce therein, and that the Gentlemen would wait on them in their Apartment in less than two Hours.

Mrs. *Vanmine*, before she left them, requested, that she and *Eleanora* might have the Perusal of Mr. *Richmore's* Packet, which was readily granted her. She then gave Assurances of a Compliance in that young Lady and herself to whatever they should think prudent. She returned to *Eleanora*, and related the whole Conversation, and Conclusion thereupon: After which, they read Mr. *Richmore's* Account, and were greatly moved at the many good Admonitions and Instructions with which it abounded. *Eleanora* could not re-

154 THE SUPPOSED DAUGHTER;

frain weeping, on seeing the tender, and positive Injunctions he laid on his Son, to make *her* Interest his peculiar Care as long as he lived.

Soon after the Gentlemen waited on the Ladies, when Sir *Robert*, in his accustomed Manner, saluted *Eleanora*, saying, My dear Child, my fond Heart daily rejoices to see you. I hope, my Love, you have not forgot our Yesterday's Engagement to dine at Mr. *Wilson's*? I have ordered the Coach to be ready. Come, Gentlemen, let us retire, that the Ladies may have Time to dress themselves; on which they all paid their Compliments, and withdrew.

Mrs. *Vanmine* and *Eleanora* (for the latter must still be called so) continued in Lady *Richmore's* Room, till informed they were waited for. The Major and Captain attended them on Horseback; and notwithstanding the late Discovery, their Conversation on the Road was general, free and easy; neither one or the other shewing the least Reserve in their Discourse or Behaviour.

Mr.

Mr. *Wilson*, not being arrived when the Company reached his House, Sir *Robert* and the Ladies were conducted in by Mrs. *Wilson*. *Richmore* and the Major would have rode on till they met her Husband, but this, she and the rest opposed, as they should thereby be deprived of the Pleasure of being present at the first Interview of such dear Friends. An Hour had been scarce spent in the Garden, when they perceived Mr. *Wilson* advancing with eager Steps towards them. The three Ladies being in the Front, he, with many endearing Expressions, first embraced his Wife, and afterwards her Companions; then turning to pay his Compliments to the Gentlemen, fixed his Eyes on Captain *Richmore*, and remained motionless without being able to do it. His Confusion being observed by his Friend, he immediately caught him in his Arms, and continued silently locked in each other's Embrace some Minutes, before either could utter a Syllable; so effectually had

156 THE SUPPOSED DAUGHTER;

excessive Joy tied up the Faculty of Speech. Tears, however, found a Vent and, at length, their Tongues resumed their Functions almost at the same Instant; crying out, It is *Richmore*! It is my Friend *Wilson*! Soon after, *Richmore* took Notice of his having another Friend to salute; intimating, he could not have forgot the worthy Captain *Travanton*. Mr. *Wilson* then hastened to embrace him, declaring, he was the second Person in the World he wished a perfect Friendship with, making an Apology to him and Sir *Robert* for not perceiving them sooner; hoping they would pardon him, as the first Sight of his Friend and Deliverer caused such a violent Emotion in his whole Frame, that entirely deprived him of all other Sensations whatsoever. Sir *Robert* smiled an Assent, and the Major returned his kind Professions with such as were equally warm, disinterested and engaging.

Sir *Robert* congratulated his Neighbour on his Return home, and the Felicity he enjoyed in the unexpected Arrival



rival of his Friends; adding, I have often heard you say, you owed your Life to my Nephew's Courage and Generosity—I owe much more to him, as also to his truly honourable Companion; since it is to them I no longer remain the Monster I was: And your Goodness, I am confident, will be pleased at this almost miraculous Reformation; and delighted to hear, that it was, under Providence, brought about by these Gentlemen.

*Eleanora's* Countenance glowed with a pleasing Satisfaction: She declared, the happy Change had filled her Heart with Joy incapable of being defined; nor could the rest of the Company help shewing their utmost Approbation. Captain *Richmore*, blushing, owned, that his Uncle's Good-nature attributed more Merit to his Friend and Self, than they were intitled to; and that the Revival of his sometime neglected Virtues, appeared to him rather owing to Providence and his own good Sense.

Mr.

158 The SUPPOSED DAUGHTER;

Mr. *Wilson's* little Family came into the Garden to welcome their Father home. True paternal Affection appeared in his Face, while he tenderly blessed, and saluted them round. A Servant's Appearance to inform them Dinner was ready, drew them into the House. When the Cloth was taken away, a general, and an agreeable Conversation made the Afternoon seem exceeding short. Captain *Richmore* and Mr. *Wilson* being both impatient to hear what had befallen each other, from their parting at *Lisbon*, they reciprocally promised, at taking Leave, that the next Day should be spent in satisfying each other's Desire; and the latter, in order thereto, proposed being at Sir *Robert's* early in the Morning.

It was not quite eight o'Clock when Mr. *Wilson* dismounted at the Gate. Captain *Richmore* conducted him to his Bedchamber; saying, he was under the greatest Perplexity to imagine what could detain him so long from returning home, after he had the Pleasure of  
meeting

meeting him in *Portugal*. The other replied, You shall soon know that: But first, dear *Richmore*, let me beg you would be as particular as possible in informing me of your Reception in the Army, the Service you went upon, and whatever else occurred, till your landing in *England*; for I must tell you, I am too much interested in your Affairs, to be put off with a cursory Account.

Captain *Richmore* replied, I shall endeavour to oblige you as well as my Memory serves; but must first take Notice, that soon after parting with you in the *Tagus*, I grew very melancholy and low-spirited, on a serious Reflexion of the Way of Life I had so lately embarked in; which my Friend, Captain *Travani*, observing, did all in his Power to remove, by using many Arguments to reconcile me to the Vocation of a Soldier; among others, he represented the Duty and Necessity Subjects are under to venture their Lives in the just Defence of their Sovereign, Country, Religion, Laws and Liberty, when violently

lently attacked by the boundless Ambition of arbitrary Tyrants, whose Views solely tend to destroy them all, and involve the World in Blood and Confusion. That as this was acknowledged by impartial People to be the undeniable Cause of the War, he looked upon our Employments under our gracious Queen to be just, honourable and meritorious; concluding with informing me that he verily believed, I was the richest subaltern Officer in the Army; my Friend, Captain *Pedro*, having deposited Three Hundred Moidores in his Hands for my Use, and likewise paid him the full Price of my Commission; and that *you* had left as considerable a Sum with him for the same Purpose. My Heart, tho' overflowing with Gratitude for these unmerited Favours, suggested many uncomfortable Ideas, fearing it would never be in my Power to return them.

Captain *Richmore* then proceeded to relate his Arrival at *Barcelona*, and whatever else had happened to him either abroad



abroad or at home; all which having been recounted before, is omitted here. When he had finished, Mr. *Wilson* began, from the same Period, with observing, that although nothing extraordinary had befallen him since, he would briefly acquaint him with the several Causes that had detained him in *Virginia* so much longer than he designed.

I failed, said he, the Week after you left me, and in five Days arrived at the Island of *Madeira*, where I took in as much of their Wines as compleated my Cargo, and departed from thence, in Company with a small Vessel bound to *New-England*. We met with exceedingly bad Weather, and were soon separated in a violent Storm, in which I lost my Fore-mast, Bowspit, and Main-topmast, which obliged me to put back to *Lisbon* to refit. While I continued there, I often visited your Friend, Captain *Pedro*, who was very serviceable to me on many Occasions. I had the Pleasure also of meeting with Doctor *White* at his House, whose Ship was arrived from the *Medi-*

*terranean.* He expressed the highest Satisfaction at hearing of your Release from the Inquisition, and declared the real Sorrow he had been under on your Account; and although the Man of War he belonged to came into *Lisbon* a Month after your second Imprisonment, he would sooner have lost his Bread, than have left the City, if his Continuance there could any way have contributed to your Enlargement.

It was full ten Weeks before I could get ready to sail. In nine more, I arrived safe in *Virginia*, and found my dear Wife and Children in good Health; though grieved and uneasy at my long Absence. My young Slave (to whom, you may remember, I gave the Name of *Prince*) was returned from *Jamaica*, having faithfully transacted the Commission with which I had entrusted him. The Season being too far advanced to think of embarking with my young Family for *England*, I determined to stay till the following Summer, as I had many Affairs to settle before we left *America*.

I set

I set seriously about ballancing my Accounts with every Person with whom I had any Concern; and before the Winter was over, had finished most Matters to my Satisfaction, except the selling or letting my Plantations (for I had bought another since the Decease of my Father-in-law) about which, and my Stock, many People had treated with me in order to the taking them at an Appraise-ment; and yet it was *June* before an absolute Agreement was made, which, at last, I concluded with a Person from *Maryland*, who had been recommended to me as an honest Man, and in good Circumstances. But, luckily, before the signing of Leases, I found him out to be a very Cheat and Impostor, not worth a Groat. This Disappointment obliged me to defer my Departure about two Months longer; at the End of which my Wife was seized with a violent Fever, and the Physician despaired of her Recovery: However, to my inexpressible Joy, it took a favourable Turn; but it was so long before she had Strength enough

enough to undertake the Voyage, that the second Summer elapsed.

Early in the next Spring, I got exceeding good Tenants for each of my Plantations, and sold my Negroes, and remaining Stock, for which I received Bills on several Merchants in *London*; and soon after, shipped Men, rigged my Vessel, and proposed being ready to sail by the Middle of *May*; and should have so done, had I not had the Misfortune of breaking my Thigh by a fall. That unlucky Accident detained us till *September*, when on the Fifteenth of that Month, we all embarked for *England*, and, considering the Season, had a tolerable Passage; anchoring safe in the River *Thames* on the Third of *November* following.

I remained about six Weeks in *London* with my Family, and then proceeded to *Berwick* by Land, to take Possession of my Estate, and prepare my late dear Uncle's House for the Reception of them. The first Visit I paid was to the good antient Archdeacon, whom

I re-



I rejoiced to see alive and hearty. He received me with Kindness and Civility, on account of his Friendship to my deceased Uncle, and gave me many Welcomes on my Arrival in *England*. Then desired to know, whether I received his last Letter, in answer to one that came to his Hands from me, about ten Months before? With the utmost Gratitude, I returned him sincere Thanks for the Favours he had conferred upon me, and the Trouble he had taken in my Affairs; letting him know, I received his last Letter, and two other Letters since, from Mr. *Mason* (the Person I intrusted with the Management of my Estate and Effects) of whose Honesty and Integrity I entertained the greatest Opinion, by the fair, just, and particular Account he had transmitted to me, of his many Years Stewardship.

The reverend Archdeacon replied, that Mr. *Mason's* general good Character and Ability first induced him to request his taking that Charge upon him, and he did not doubt of my finding  
it

it executed with Honour and Fidelity. On taking Leave, he courteously invited me to accept of a Lodging at his House; but on mentioning my Design of reaching Mr. *Mason's*, he desisted, ordering a Servant of his to attend me there, as it was near nine Miles, and across some Moors and Commons, that would puzzle a Stranger to find the Way.

I accepted his kind Offer, and got to Mr. *Mason's* House a little before the Close of the Evening. There I met with a very civil Reception, and was much pleased to find him quite the Gentleman, and a Person of Understanding. We had some Conversation after Supper on my general Concerns. I intimated my Intention of bringing my Family to reside altogether at the *Hall-House*, as soon as it could be got in Order: When he replied, Sir, give me Leave in the Morning to wait on you to your Seat; we may spend three or four Hours there, and be back by Dinner-time. An honest Farmer that rents

Part

Part of your Lands, lives in some of the lower Apartments. The whole Building, as well as the Stables, Out-houses and Barns, are all in excellent Repair; the Furniture, which, you may remember, was exceeding good, has been taken down, carefully packed up, and frequently aired, by often having Fires made in the Rooms in which they are contained; so that I dare venture to affirm, when you come to inspect them, you will find very little Occasion to purchase new. The Family Jewels, Plate, and some of the most valuable Pictures (of which I sent you an Inventory) were brought to my House for greater Security; they are safe, and ready to be delivered to you when you please to receive them.

I found every thing Mr. *Mason* said agreeable to Truth; with whose prudent Advice and Assistance, my House, in less than a Month, was ready for the Reception of my Family. When it was finished, I returned to *London*, and, at my Wife's Request, conducted her  
and



and my Children down to this Country, where we have remained ever since, till my late Business in Town, which was to see my Servant *Prince* embark, and to furnish him with such Books, Instruments and Necessaries, as may be useful to him in his own Country. He is gone a Passenger with an honest Commander of my Acquaintance, who has promised me, on his Word and Honour, to set him on Shore, with his Effects, in his Father's Dominions. The Progress he has made in several Sciences, while he remained with me in *England*, is wonderful. I have Reason to believe, from the Knowledge I have of his grateful Disposition, that I shall hear from him by every Opportunity he can find of writing to me ; and cannot help thinking, if he lives, but that this Nation will receive many Advantages in Trade from his Interest with the King his Father, if alive ; and more may be expected, should he succeed to his Kingdom.



C H A P. XXXIX.

WHEN Mr. *Wilson* took Leave, the Major and *Richmore* promised, in their next Morning's Ride to call on him; and it was then, with the general Consent, that the last informed him of the Discovery lately made, of *Eleanora's* being the only Daughter of his Sister *Maria*, by her Husband, Sir *William Goodman*; with every other Circumstance attendant thereon.

It is impossible to describe his Surprise and Astonishment. He broke into an Exclamation of, Good Heaven! you have accounted for that Love, Esteem, and real Affection, I conceived for that lovely Maid, from the Moment I beheld her! Oh! Nature, Nature, thou art all prevalent! He then informed *Richmore*, how ardently he wished to see him happily joined in Wedlock with that adorable Virgin.

Dear Sir, replied the other, I should have mentioned to you, that the very

Day of the Secret being known to my Uncle (though not then to *Maria*) he proposed her to me as a Wife, whose Beauty, Virtue, and amiable Qualifications, he said, could not fail of making any deserving Husband infinitely happy. The Raptures I was in at the Proposal, gave him high Pleasure, and the Consent he obtained afterwards from her, if possible, increased it. Nothing now remains to compleat our joint Happiness, but your Approbation ; since she is now acquainted with the dear Relation you bear to her.

Oh ! my Friend, replied Mr. *Wilson*, give me Leave to inform my Wife of this extraordinary Event, and I will instantly return with you ; for I am all Impatience to embrace my deserving Niece, in whom every Grace and Perfection that so eminently shined in my deceased Sister, is blazingly conspicuous. May Heaven, that rewards virtuous Love, pour down its choicest Blessings on your Heads, and may you live  
to

to see a numerous Offspring emulating the Virtues of their worthy Parents.

He left them for about half an Hour, and returning told them, that Mrs. *Wilson* had been as much transported with Pleasure, at finding her amiable Friend was become her Niece, as himself. They then set out together; and by the Way, the Major, who had now good Reasons to believe his dear Widow would at last reward his constant Love, in a Fulness of Joy, related to Mr. *Wilson* every Circumstance of his inviolable Passion for that worthy Lady; and received in Return, the hearty Wishes for his Happiness of that valuable Friend.

As soon as they dismounted at *Richmore-hall*, *Maria* and Mrs. *Vanmine* were acquainted by *Richmore* of Mr. *Wilson*'s being below, and what had passed on this Discovery. The tender Scene that ensued his Entrance, can be better conceived in generous Minds than described; a Thousand reciprocal Endearments sufficiently evinced a true Affection on one Side, and a Love, Duty and Re-

spect on the other. Mr. *Wilson* then saluted Mrs. *Vanmine*, and said, Oh! Madam, it is impossible for me to repay your Goodness and Kindness to a helpless Orphan!

Sir *Robert* coming in, Mr. *Wilson* began to make his Acknowledgements to him, when, he begged him to forbear, and changed the Conversation, by taking Notice of the Hopes he conceived of his Wife's Recovery, by the Arrival of the *Spanish* Lady, whom he proposed meeting a Day's Journey from his House, the *Friday* after, with Mrs. *Vanmine*, *Maria*, and the Officers; when Mr. *Wilson* desired, that he and his Spouse might be of the Party. The Baronet, after expressing how agreeable it would be to them all, insisted on his spending the Day at his House, to which he consented.

*Maria* then requested, that Mrs. *Vanmine* and she might be permitted to visit her Aunt, in order to pay the Duty she indispensably owed her as such; of which, she was desirous, she said, of giving



giving the earliest Proof. Sir *Robert* approving thereof, the Coach was immediately ordered to be got ready; and the Ladies, after the Ceremonial was over, entertained Mrs. *Wilson* with every Particular of their Story.

In the Evening, she insisted on seeing them home in their Coach, ordering her own to follow, to carry herself and Husband back; when they met with *Richmore* and the Major, much about half-way, who declared, their Intention was to see Mr. *Wilson* to his House, and then of escorting the Ladies home; however, after some obliging Conversation, Mr. *Wilson* and his Lady went into their own Coach, with Assurances of being ready to attend them on the Day appointed; desiring they would breakfast that Morning at their House, as it lay in the Road they were to take, to meet the *Spanish* Ladies, and they then parted.

Serjeant *Webb* had been dispatched several Days Journey, to acquaint Madam *Cordosa* and her Daughter with their Design, who were equally pleased

and delighted at meeting him, as he was the only Person they had seen in *England* of whom they had the least Knowledge. He now appeared a well-dressed Cavalier, and was in Possession of his Paternal Estate, of more than Three Hundred Pounds *per Annum*, which Sir Robert had justly and generously restored to him, on being satisfied, that the Rents and Profits, by long Possession, had discharged the whole Money, for which it was mortgaged to his late Father-in-law.

Sir Robert's and Mr. Wilson's Equipages arrived at the Inn before the Stage-coach. As the last drove into the Yard, the good Widow no sooner cast her Eyes on *Richmore*, than she fainted away. He and the Major, carried her into a Ground-Room, and a Smelling-bottle, which her Daughter applied, revived her. She then said, Worthy Sir, excuse the Weakness and maternal Fondness of an ancient Woman, and help me to make my Acknowledgements to Sir Robert *Richmore*, and the rest

rest of the worthy Company, for the Honour done us.

Oh! Madam, replied the Captain, ours are due to you; as my Life, Welfare, and present Happiness, are all owing to your Charity! This Truth being known to the Company, I shall say no more on that Head, but welcome you, and your Daughter, on your safe Arrival, with an Assurance, that it will be the assiduous Care of myself and Friends, to make this Country as agreeable and pleasant to you both, as possible; and that I shall ever make it my Study to contribute to your future Ease and Satisfaction.

*Maria* approaching to salute the Widow, a Flood of Tears that burst from her Eyes, deprived her of Utterance, and all she could do, was to embrace and bedew her Cheeks, while the other affectionately returned it with a cordial Salute. *Mrs. Wilson* and *Mrs. Vanmine* did the like. *Richmore* then introduced the Gentlemen singly, by leading *Sir Robert* up to her, saying,

176 THE SUPPOSED DAUGHTER;

This, Madam, is my Uncle *Richmore*; this, my Friend, Mr. *Wilson*; and this, Major *Travanton*; Names you are no Stranger to, having often heard me make honourable Mention of them all, as well as those of the Ladies. This is my beloved Cousin *Eleanora*; that, Mrs. *Kannine*; and the other, the worthy Spouse of my Friend *Wilson*. After many tender Expressions and Professions of Friendship on all Sides, Madam *Cordosa* enquired after Lady *Richmore's* Health, and was answered by Sir *Robert*, that she was in the same unhappy Situation his Nephew had represented her in, while in *Spain*. She replied, by the Account he had given of her Indisposition, that she was not without Hopes of restoring her Health, or, at least, of being of some Service to her, but would postpone giving any farther Opinion till she had seen her.

Captain *Richmore* desired to be informed when she saw Captain *Fitzgerald*, being greatly concerned, he said, that he had not heard from him since his leaving



leaving *Spain*. Indeed, Sir, replied she, I am confident of his writing, however his Letters might lose their Way. I have others from him to you, which are in my Trunks, and which will arrive with my Maid and Boy, who set out with the Waggon before me. The many signal Favours and Civilities I received from that Gentleman, on Account of his Friendship to you, are inexpressible.

You may remember, continued the Widow, that the Day of your Departure, the Captain saw you Twenty Miles on your Way: He returned that Night to my House, and gave strong Assurances of performing the Promise he made you, of rendering me all Services in his Power; which he accordingly performed, in the most kind and generous Manner imaginable. My first Request was, that he would wait on a neighbouring Nobleman (who, after my Husband's Decease, had offered to become a Purchaser of my House, and Lands belonging thereto) with my

178 The SUPPOSED DAUGHTER ;

Compliments, and to inform his Lordship, he should have the first Refusal of them. He told me, how much a Stranger he was to Bargains and Sales of that Kind, but would return in two or three Days, with a Person well read in the Law, for whose Integrity he could be answerable. On his taking Leave, he observed I was unprovided with a Man Servant, and kindly left his own, till he could send one that should remain in my House as long as I stayed. The same Week he brought the Lawyer and another Person with him. They went to his Lordship, who seemed fond of the Purchase, as the Estate was contiguous to a considerable one of his own, and an Agreement was soon made; but, by Delays of the Lawyers, it was full three Months before the Writings were executed.

In the mean Time, with the Captain's Assistance, I disposed of most of my other Effects. The Money arising therefrom, and that which was paid by his Lordship for the Estate, he got converted

verted for me into Bills of Exchange on several Merchants in *Lisbon*; to which Place I was soon after ready to set out. On Intimation of the Day fixed on for that Purpose, he courteously proposed seeing us a Day or two on our Journey, without informing us of his Intention of going quite through with us to that City; or that he had obtained Leave from his General for a Six Week's Absence. We were thirteen Days on the Road on the Whole; and when we put up the second Night, and not before, he generously told us of the Resolution he had taken to conduct us to the great Metropolis, where we were to embark; nor did he leave us, or the City, till he saw us on board; and then took a friendly Leave, wishing us a prosperous Voyage, and desiring you might be informed, that he intended you a Visit in his Way to *Ireland*, which he hoped would be soon.

The Widow then apologized for her troubling the Company with Circumstances so uninteresting to them; and

added, that what had encouraged her to proceed was, the Pleasure she knew Captain *Richmore* would take in hearing how kindly his Friend had behaved. They all admired and commended the just, honourable, and amiable Character the Widow had given of Captain *Fitzgerald*, and soon after retired to their respective Beds, in Consideration of the long and fatiguing Journey of the Strangers; and of their setting out at Day-break in the Morning, that they might reach Mr. *Wilson's* by Dinner. Madam *Cordosa*, and her Daughter, being taken into Sir *Robert's* Coach, and he into Mr. *Wilson's*, they all arrived after an agreeable Journey, at the aforementioned Place, where an elegant Entertainment was soon served up, which had been ordered the Day before. After a few Hours agreeable Chat, Sir *Robert*, with the rest, took a friendly Leave of Mr. *Wilson* and his Family, and arrived at *Richmore-Hall* before Sun-set.



## C H A P. XL.

AS soon as they entered the House, Madam *Cordosa*, without Ceremony, desired to be conducted to Lady *Richmore's* Apartment. She was accordingly attended thereto by *Maria*, and her Companion. The melancholy Condition she observed her in, brought Tears from her Eyes, but which she assured them, proceeded alone from Pity and Compassion, and not from a Diffidence of a Cure. She then ordered a Quill might be brought, into which she put a small Quantity of a Powder, and blew some up each Nostril; this done, desired she might be turned upon her Side, and her Head considerably raised, that the Humour which she expected would discharge itself, might the more easily make its Way, as the quick Appearance thereof she looked on as a favourable Symptom. The black coagulated Blood made fluid thereby, soon issued in great Quantities, mixed with other tough, corroding and discoloured Matter, and in less than

182 The SUPPOSED DAUGHTER ;

than four Hours, was produced a Humour more clear, tho' not less virulent. When the last was pretty well over, she ordered a strict Silence to be kept in her Room, that she might be composed after the Operation she had undergone.

On the Ladies entering Lady *Richmore's* Chamber early in the Morning, the Servants that sat up with her, declared her Ladyship was but just awaked, having slept soundly all Night. This Account was pleasing to the Widow, who then proceeded to a Repetition of what she had done the Day before, and repeated it also on the Third Day, when the running Humour greatly abated, and her Ladyship began to shew some Signs of Sanity, after which, she fell into a sweet Composure, that continued many Hours. The Maids that attended her affirming they had heard their Lady say in a low Voice, *Lord have Mercy upon me*, but could not be certain whether she was awake, or in a Dream, when she said it. Madam *Cordosa*, and the two Ladies undrawing one of the Curtains,

tains, she turned her Head quite round to look at them. But what put them into an Extacy of Joy, was their perceiving a Smile on her Countenance, while she intently fixed her Eyes on *Maria*, who saluted her, and could plainly perceive a kind Return. Mrs. *Vanmine* did the like, and received demonstrative Proofs that she perfectly knew them both.

This Dawn of Recovery occasioned inexpressible Satisfaction. Yet the low and weak Condition she was reduced to, would have deprived them of all Hopes of Life, had they not daily been encouraged by Madam *Cordosa*; from whose Skill and Abilities they had Reason to expect every Thing possible under the Hands of Providence. Each Day was productive of singular Instances of her returning Senses. At first her Voice was so extremely faint, they were obliged to put their Ears near her Mouth, to understand her Meaning. In less than a Fortnight, she gathered Strength, and in a few Weeks more, her Health was perfectly established. All about her  
were

were charmed with the agreeable Manner in which Lady *Richmore* expressed the most lively Sense of Gratitude to her Nephew, the good Widow, *Maria*, and Mrs. *Vannine* : Yet above all, she protested, the true Joy and Satisfaction she conceived, on the happy Reformation of her dear Husband, was infinitely greater than any proceeding from her own Recovery.

*Richmore-hall* had, before this, re-assumed much of its antient Grandeur, but now began to shine with more Lustre than ever. The Countenance of every Individual in the Family, was changed ; Peace, Plenty, and high Satisfaction, were visible in each Face. The several Persons of Eminence in the County paid their Compliments, on Lady *Richmore's* Recovery, and it occasioned an universal Joy among the country People. Madam *Cordosa's* extraordinary Skill, Abilities and Goodness, were the general Topics of Conversation ; nay even the Physicians owned the Cure she had performed, surpassed whatever they



they had heard or seen. She received the joint Caresses, Applause and good Wishes, of the Gentry, and all Degrees of People.

Soon after, Sir *Robert* declaring that nothing now remained to compleat his Felicity, but seeing his Friends as happy as himself, wished, that his Nephew and the Major would think of making a speedy Preparation for the Celebration of their Nuptials. Observing to the former, that he had already given Instruction to his Counsel for settling two thousand Pounds a Year on him, together with the House, Park, Gardens, and adjoining Meadows, which formerly belonged to his Father-in-Law; and that it was repairing and beautifying for his Reception. Then applying himself to the Major, said, You Sir, I am assured, are too generous to disapprove of greatful Returns to those we owe infinite Obligations to; therefore, as you are acquainted with some of the many I lie under, to the truly valuable Mrs. *Kanmine*, you will excuse my  
in-

insisting on your accepting a Fortune from me, with her, that may be adequate to a Jointure on your Estate, which I am satisfied you will readily comply with.

They both paid their reciprocal Acknowledgements and Thanks for his generous and honourable Proposals, altho' the Major, whose Love was quite disinterested, would gladly have declined accepting the Baronet's kind Offer. The same Day the Ladies were prevailed on to fix a Time to make their Lovers happy, which was that Day Month. Preparations were accordingly begun, and every necessary Provision made, that the Nuptials might appear modestly gay, and decently sumptuous.

A few Days after, a Gentleman in deep Mourning arrived at Sir *Robert Richmore's*, who enquired for Mrs. *Vanmine*, at a Time when Mr. *Wilson's* Family, and several other Visitants were ready to sit down to Dinner. Mrs. *Vanmine*, hastily rising, was shewed into a Parlour, where the Gentleman waited

to see her: On whose advancing to salute her, she made a full Stop. Madam, said he, I perceive our long Separation has left you no Idea of your Cousin *Maddox*. Surprise and Joy almost overcame her: She expressed the highest Satisfaction on seeing him well, and was impatient to know what Affairs could call him into that Country.

Dear Cousin, said he, I was no sooner informed of the Place of your Residence, than I set out from *Cornwall*, where I have many Years resided, that I might be the Messenger of your good Fortune; and wish you that Happiness in possessing it which your just Merit always deserved. My Mother died near three Months ago, and has left you joint Executrix with her Attorney, who knew no more where to write to you than myself. From him I obtained a Copy of her Will, which I have the Pleasure now of delivering to you (giving it into her Hand.) By that you will find she has bequeathed you more than forty thousand Pounds, and to me a single Shilling,  
having

having disobliged her by marrying a worthy young Lady, about nine Years since, whose Fortune was not equal to my future Expectations, tho' answerable to the Estate I then enjoyed; and from that Time, I could never obtain Permission to pay my Duty to her.

She replied, Dear Cousin, this News greatly afflicts me. In the Afternoon I shall be glad to talk with you farther on this Head, but at this Time, Dinner is carrying in, to which I beg you would accompany me, that I may introduce you to my very good Friends. Then taking him by the Hand, she led him into the Dining-room; presented him as her Cousin to Sir Robert, his Lady, and the rest of the Company. When Compliments were over, the Major took Notice, he believed he had the Honour of knowing the Gentleman, and possibly he had not forgot *him*, altho' it was many Years since they had seen each other.

Mr Maddox replied, if his Name was *Travunien*, he perfectly did; and  
was



was exceeding glad to see him. That he left his younger Brother and Sister well, and in high Spirits, in Expectation of seeing him in *Cornwall*, since the good News of his Arrival in *England*. Dinner being served up, a general Conversation ensued; when it was over, Mrs. *Vanmine* desired her Aunt's Will, brought by her Cousin, might be read; which being done, by Captain *Richmore*, she acquainted the Company with Mrs. *Maddox's* Motives for disinheriting her Son, and making the Will so much in her Favour.

She then addressed herself to her Cousin, saying, I am too well assured of my honoured Aunt's Disposition, to doubt of her having made some rash Vow, on the first Information of your Marriage; and you know, when any such had once passed her Lips, it was like Fate, never to be recalled. The leaving me her Fortune, was the only Expedient, I suppose, she could think of, to possess you thereof, well knowing, I should detain no Part of such an unjust Legacy. This,  
I am

I am satisfied, was her Intention, in leaving it to me : Therefore I take this Opportunity of declaring, before all present, I utterly disclaim every Advantage accruing to myself from her Will, and am at this Instant ready to sign a proper Instrument, to divest myself from any Claim on that Account ; and to put you into immediate Possession of what in Right and Justice belongs to you.

Mr. *Maddox*, as well as every Body else, remained quite mute ; altho' large Drops successively rolled down his manly Cheeks. The Major was the first that broke Silence, in highly commending Sentiments so truly noble and magnanimous. Each in their Turn did no less : But Madam *Cordosa*, who, tho' she could never bear the least Adulation paid to her own Virtues, was in such an Extacy of Raptures, that she rose from her Seat, and embraced her with uncommon Tendernefs ; declaring, such inimitable Goodness, and disinterested Generosity, could not fail of commanding the Love, Venera-

Veneration and Esteem of the Good and Benevolent.

Mr. *Maddox* seemed the only Person dissatisfied with a Proposal that had charmed every one but himself. He, with great Modesty, made the utmost Acknowledgements for his Cousin's designed Favours, but begged Leave to assign Reasons to the Company, for his absolute Refusal thereof, in the Manner proposed; which he hoped they would think just and honourable. In order to which, he said, I must first premise, that my dear Mother had unhappily contracted some ungovernable Passions, often fatal to her own Repose, as well as prejudicial to those she most loved and esteemed; notwithstanding her Intentions were always upright and well meant. My Cousin, added he, fell an innocent Victim to those unruly Passions, by her precipitantly hurrying her into an unfortunate Marriage, against her Inclinations; the Consequence attendant thereon, was the Loss of her Fortune, which was considerable, and productive of many Misfor-

192      THE SUPPOSED DAUGHTER;  
Misfortunes, both in her Husband's  
Life-time and afterwards.

My Mother, undoubtedly conscious of the Ruin and Devastation she had (tho' undefignedly) occasioned, thought of making the Injured all the Restitution in her Power by Will; well knowing, altho' my Estate was not very opulent, yet it was sufficient to support a Family decently and genteely. These Considerations, therefore, forcibly forbid my accepting such a generous Offer: Yet, if my good Cousin would consent to dividing the Legacy equal between us, I can with Gratitude and Satisfaction accept of her Favours. He concluded with appealing to their Judgments, whether, in Honour, Justice, and Conscience, he could conform to the first Proposal, without a Breach of them all.

Sir *Robert's* Counsellor, who was present, and who had not yet spoken, in a jocular Manner observed, he never before heard two People so strenuously plead against their own Interest; and as it was his Opinion, there would be no  
Law-



Law-suit, he recommended the contending Parties to leave Matters in Dispute, to the Arbitration of two in the Company. Some cried out, Aye, aye, and proposed Sir *Robert* and Mr. *Wilson*; but neither the Major or *Richmore* were pleased with the Lawyer's Proposal. The Persons named for Arbitrators, accepting the Office, Mrs. *Vanmine* and her Cousin engaged to abide by their Award.

The two Gentlemen retired, and in less than an Hour returned; declaring that on Consideration of what had been alledged on both Sides, their Opinion was, that Mrs. *Vanmine* should retain six Thousand Pounds only of the whole Legacy, as so much had really been lost by the Mismanagement of her Aunt; and that the Remainder should be restored to Mr. *Maddox*; and that an Instrument for that Purpose, should immediately be drawn up by the Counsellor, and signed by each Party. This Determination was generally approved, altho' Mrs. *Vanmine* thought it too much in her Favour, and her Cousin not half enough; yet each

submitted to the Decision, and executed the Instrument, which was prepared the same Day. Thus ended this uncommon and amicable Contest.



## C H A P. XLI.

THE following Week Captain *Richmore* had the Pleasure of embracing his Friend Captain *Fitzgerald*, and welcoming his safe Arrival at *Richmore-hall*. He was received by him with great Marks of Friendship, and by the whole Company with Esteem, Politeness and Civility. The Returns he made, were obliging and agreeable. Madam *Cordosa*, and her Daughter, paid their Compliments in the most genteel Manner; repeating a-new the Favours they had received from that Gentleman.

He expressed great Satisfaction in finding them and his Friends safe in *England*; informed Captain *Richmore* of the Decease of his Uncle the General, soon after his Return from escorting the Ladies

dies to *Lisbon*, tho' not till he had obtained his Leave for quitting the *Spanish* Service, and of his having procured an honourable Dismission in less than a Fortnight after his Death; that he stayed but a few Days, to take an Adieu of his Friends and Acquaintance; and that he found many of them disgusted with the Service, and determined to leave it, as soon as they could procure Permission to lay down their Commissions.

Among the first, continued *Fitzgerald*, was Mr. *Marshall*, a *Yorkshire* Gentleman, whom you cannot but remember, Captain *Richmore*, as he commonly made a third Person with us over a Bottle, during the Time you continued a Prisoner. I had an Acceptation of my Resignation Time enough to accompany him to *England*. When such a sprightly and engaging Companion converted a tiresome Journey and Voyage into a Tour of Pleasure; for you cannot have forgot he was always agreeable and diverting: Yet I must take Notice, the Business he came

upon seemed to add something to the natural Gaiety of his Temper.

Mr. *Marshal* detained me ten Days in *London*, on a Promise of going to *Berwick* along with me, if I would make *Rippon* in *Yorkshire* in my Way, where he was to take Possession of an Estate of near a Thousand Pounds a Year, fallen to him by the Decease of two elder Brothers unmarried. I agreeing so to do, we each of us bought a Brace of Geldings, made up some Cloaths, hired Servants, and set out together.

The first Night we lay at a little Town in *Hertfordshire*, I think it was called *Buntingford*; we were both hungry, and impatient for our Supper, that we might go to bed early, and be on Horseback betimes in the Morning. As our Room fronted the Street, we observed a great Bustle and Confusion, occasioned by a Gentleman caning a Carrier for wilfully running his Waggon against his Coach, as it stood near the Inn Door, and by that Means breaking his Carriage, and tearing the Body almost to Pieces. The  
Wag-



Waggoner being well known on the Road to the Hostlers and Country People, many of them took his Part, and used the Gentleman and his two Servants so roughly, that we were under Apprehensions for their Lives. This induced us to interpose with our Servants, yet it was with great difficulty we brought them off with Safety from the Mob.

His Lady, with two others of her Company, being informed of the Accident, in a Fright and Surprise joined us. Fortunately the Gentleman received no other Damage than a few Bruises; though his Coachman was terribly beaten, and his Head broke in two or three Places. They all made Acknowledgements, and returned Thanks for our seasonable Assistance. The Landlord informed the Gentleman, that the Carrier was a Man of Substance, very civil and discreet, when sober; but as he was then drunk, advised, that nothing more might be said at that Time, and in the Morning every thing should be made good and repaired at the Carrier's Expence, and, likewise, that he

should ask Pardon for what had happened.

Mr. *Thurston* (for that we found afterwards was the Stranger's Name) appeared to us a good-natured, free-hearted Country Squire. He replied, Damn the Fellow, if I had known he had been drunk, I should not have corrected his Insolence. As to the Expence, I value it not a Rush; nothing vexes me but that we may possibly be detained two or three Days on the Road, by his being in his Cups: Yet, rot the Dog, I am sure I shall be Puppy enough to forgive him, now my Passion is over; though, hang it, my Horses will be refreshed by this Accident; for I assure you, they have brought us Three Hundred Miles already. It is true, they are of my own breeding, and good Cattle, or they would not hold out; for we have, I believe, almost as much farther to *Berwick*, where we are going to pay a Visit to my Wife's Brother. Don't you think I am a kind Husband, after having been married these Four Years, to take such a Journey

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ney to see a Person whom I never saw in my Life, to please her? However, I shall say no more of that, as she is a good Girl. Gentlemen, you seem to be of the Army; if you will let us have your Company to Supper, and spend the Evening, I shall take it kindly.

Mr. *Thurston's* honest Bluntness, with the amiable Behaviour of the three Ladies, created a Desire of being known to them, and we readily accepted his Invitation; ordering that which we had bespoke, to be brought up with what was providing for them. In conversation it came out, that Mrs. *Thurston* was your Sister, Captain *Richmore*, and the two other young Ladies your Cousins. They told us, they had been informed of your Death, soon after your going abroad, and knew nothing to the contrary, nor of your Return home, till a few Days before the setting out; and which was accidentally discovered, by a Letter of Major *Travanion's* to his Sister, as she was their intimate Acquaintance, and they happening to be in her House when she



received it; that he mentioned therein, as she should continue some Time with his Friend Captain *Robert Richmore*, she might direct her Answer for him at that Gentleman's Uncle, Sir *Robert Richmore* Baronet, near *Berwick*. And that, on this agreeable, unexpected News, Mrs. *Tburston* had prevailed on her Husband to take this Journey with her Cousins to pay you a Visit.

I then declared, I had the Honour to be known to you; nay, farther, to number myself among your Friends; and that my sole Business to *Berwick* was with the same Intent as theirs; and thought myself happy in having any Opportunity of paying proper Respects to the Relations and Friends of Captain *Richmore*. I likewise took Notice, that Mr. *Marshall* was no Stranger to the Captain, and of my having obtained a Promise from him of going thither along with me, after his taking Possession of his Estate at *Rippon*, which would detain us but a few Days there.

Ms.



Mr. *Marshall* genteely paid his Compliments, and then told me, I should be discharged of the Engagement I was under of going to *Rippon* with him, since he could happily leave me in such good Company going to the same Friends. He expressed himself concerned, that his Business so absolutely required his Presence by a Time prefixed; otherwise he would with great Pleasure have attended the Company to their Journey's End, and finished his Affairs afterwards; however, he gave strong Assurances of meeting us at *Berwick* in a short Time.

His Compliment was returned with much Civility by the Ladies. The Squire shook us both heartily by the Hand, saying, In good Faith, I should have been glad, if it had suited you to travel along with us, but hope we shall all come back together. As it grew late, and the Ladies seemed inclinable to retire, we took Leave, with a Promise of breakfasting with them in the Morning. When it was over, we were highly diverted with a Dialogue between the Squire and the Waggoner.

goner. On the latter's owning himself in the Wrong, asking Pardon, and offering to repair the Damage, the former generously forgave him, though he had been told, it would be full three Days before his Coach would be in a travelling Condition.

As Mr *Marshall* was under a Necessity of being in *Rippon* by that Time, he privately ordered his Horses to be ready, and would have taken a *French* Leave; but the Squire and I caught him before he could mount, and brought him back almost by main Force. The young Ladies Raillery thereupon, was near putting poor *Jack* out of Countenance; though I could not help laughing, to see how quietly he sat down, on one of them saying (whom I found over Night was his Favourite) I hope, Sir, you will favour us with your Company to Dinner, and then I am persuaded your Friend will accompany you according to his Promise; for I shall strenuously insist he makes no Breach of it on our Account.

In

In short, we spent the whole Day and Evening with them, took our leaves at Bed-time, and set out before they were stirring in the Morning; for had we staid Breakfast, I really believe we should now have been on the Road together. It is seven Days since we parted with them, and three from my leaving *Marshal at Rippon*. As the Squire with four Horses does not travel above thirty or five and thirty Miles a Day, it may therefore be three or four Days before they arrive; and I am confident of seeing my Friend *Marshal* not long after them.

Sir Robert and his Lady, as well as *Maria* and Captain *Richmore*, were particularly pleased with this Account, and resolved to meet them on the Way. They immediately dispatched a Servant with their Compliments, and Orders to return with all possible Haste, to give Notice what Time the Coach would be expected at *Richmore-hall*. The next Evening he came back with an Account, that they would, the following

Day, be there by Six or Seven o'Clock in the Evening; and said, a Gentleman overtook them while he was delivering his Message, who was coming the same Way; and that he had charged him with his Respects to Captain *Richmore* and Captain *Fitzgerald*, and all the good Company.

The Company were highly diverted on hearing Captain *Fitzgerald* instantly cry out, Oh oh, well fare thee, my honest Friend *Jack*; art thou there again, old *Truepenny*? Thou hast won my Heart for ever. Tho' he blushed as soon as it was out, on Recollection, how unguarded a Speech he had made before so many Strangers. *Richmore*, observing his Confusion, turned to Mrs. *Wilson*, that stood near him, and requested the Favour of borrowing her Coach and Six for the next Afternoon. She replied, Indeed, good Captain, I will not: Do you think my Husband and I will be excluded the Pleasure of paying our Respects with the rest? No, I protest we will not. Yet, I think, I  
have



have contrived in my own Mind quite as well, since Lady *Richmore* has intimated a Design of going to meet her Neices in her own Coach; that will carry her, Sir *Robert*, Miss *Maria* and Mrs. *Vanmine*. Then Mr. *Wilson* and I can take in Madam *Cordosa* and Miss: So all the Ladies will be provided for, and as to the Gentlemen, e'en let them ride, or stay at home. This Point being settled, the Widow and her Daughter went with Mrs. *Wilson* to her House that Night.

*Trusty*, although little Mention has been made of him lately, seldom missed seeing Captain *Richmore* two or three Times a Week, and was now again become a great Favourite of Sir *Robert's* and the whole Family, and had been employed to overlook and direct the Workmen, that were repairing and adorning the destined Seat for young *Richmore* and his Lady; they having left the sole Management of furnishing it elegantly, likewise to him. He hearing the young Ladies were coming down,

down, went home, and that Night engaged above Fifty of the most reputable Tradesmen in *Berwick* to set out early in the Morning with him, to meet his young Mistresses. They rid above twenty Miles, before they met with the Coach: As soon as they saw it, *Trusty* desired his Friends would range themselves so, as to make a Passage for them, that each might have an Opportunity to salute them as they passed. They did so, while he advanced to pay his Respects, which was in Words to this Effect: My dear young Mistresses, behold your old Servant *Trusty*, who, with a Heart running over with Joy, to see you all well before he dies, is come, with a few Friends, to welcome you all on your safe Arrival in this Country, and to conduct you to *Richmore-Hall*: But first beg you would partake of a small Entertainment I have provided for you, at an Inn about four Miles farther on the Road, where it will be necessary to refresh yourselves, Servants and Horses.

The

The Ladies were exceedingly pleased with this Instance of his Love and Regard, and testified a Pleasure in seeing him so healthy, strong and hearty. The Squire too said a good many handsome Things, returned Thanks for his kind Invitation, and assured him he should play a good Knife and Fork. After this short Parley, the Coach went on, and *Trusty*, with his Company, followed after, till they arrived at the Inn; where they did not wait long before a sumptuous Dinner was served up, and closed with an elegant Desert, brought that Morning from *Berwick*. They would fain have had *Trusty* sit down with them, but he modestly declined that Honour; begging Leave, since they had refused his Waiting at Table, that he might be permitted to join his Friends in the next Room, and dine with them.

There was Plenty of the best Wines at each Table; and when the Cloth was removed, *Trusty* began a Bumper to 'Squire *Thurston* and his Lady; then to the two Miss *Richmores*; and after that,

Sir

Sir *Robert* and his Lady, Miss *Eleanora*, Mrs. *Vanmine*, Captain *Richmore*, and Major *Travanion*'s, were all drank separately, with a general Huzza after every Health; to conclude, the last was, Prosperity to all Well-wishers and Friends of the antient and honourable Family of the *Richmores*.

Mr. *Marshal*, as well as the 'Squire, was really pleased at this particular Honour paid to the Ladies. The former of whom congratulated them upon it, and took Notice how amiable the Love and Esteem of a Country appeared to him; as he was perfectly satisfied there were no other Means of a Family's obtaining universal Love and Respect than by universal Worthiness. This Compliment, tho' it regarded the Whole, seemed directed to the younger of the Miss *Richmores*, by his looking earnestly at her, while speaking, and bowing to her, when he had made it. A succeeding Blush convinced him, that she took it as he intended, tho' he let it pass unregarded.

Mrs.



Mrs. *Thurston*, with her Cousin sent for *Trusty*, into another Room, with a Design of enquiring into some Family Affairs, as no Correspondence had subsisted between them for many Years. He declared, he was unwilling to forestal the Pleasures they would shortly enjoy on Meeting; yet glad he had an Opportunity of informing them with Pleasure, that their Uncle was again become the most truly honourable, just and generous Man living. They greatly rejoiced at this News, and intimated a Desire of setting out: The Coach was accordingly got ready, and they had not proceeded above six Miles on a Moor, when two Coaches and six, and several Gentlemen on Horseback, with a numerous Retinue of Servants, appeared in View.

Sir *Robert* with his Company, not being apprized of what *Trusty* had done, could not conceive the Reason of Mr. *Thurston's* Coach being followed by such a Number of Horsemen, till on a nearer Approach, they saw him at the Head  
of

of them. The Baronet's Coaches drew up in a wide Part of the Road; the Gentlemen dismounted, and handed the Ladies out, and then all in a Body advanced. Mr. *Thurston's* Company did the same, and never was the Meeting of Relations attended with more Affection. They were welcom'd by their Uncle and Aunt with Marks of sincere Love and Esteem; many passionate and endearing Expressions passed on each Side, between Captain *Richmore*, his Sister, and Cousins; in which, *Maria* had an equal Share. When these were over, Mrs. *Vanmine*, Mrs. *Wilson*, and the rest, in the most kind and obliging Manner, paid their Compliments; nor did any Part of the Company omit shewing a peculiar Respect to the 'Squire, and great Civilities to Mr. *Marshal*. This Ceremonial being over, the Ladies were conducted to their Coaches; *Maria* and Mrs. *Vanmine* went into Mrs. *Thurston's*; and the Maiden *Richmores* were taken in by Sir *Robert* and his Lady.

## C H A P. XLII.

THIS Increase of polite and engaging Company, added a still greater Brilliancy to *Richmore-hall*; yet the daily Diversions and Amusements contrived to entertain them, did not interrupt the Preparation began for the double Marriage. Captain *Richmore* had taken the first Opportunity of enquiring, whether Captain *Fitzgerald* had been as fortunate as himself, in preserving the Treasure each of them were obliged to travel with? He assured him, his having so done, was one strong Inducement for his visiting *Berwick*, in his Way to his own Country, for had he done otherwise, considering the reciprocal Engagements they were under, he should have looked on himself as a Man of neither Faith or Honesty; but since the safe Arrival of both in this Kingdom, entitled each to the Jewels they possess, he could now with Honour look on those he brought over as his own, and that, he had deposited the whole



whole in the Hands of a Banker in *London*, with a Design of continuing them there, till an equal Division could be made, in case any Misfortune had happened to his good Friend *Richmore* in his Return home.

The generous Behaviour of those Gentlemen towards each other, was a stronger Cement to their Friendship. After a tender Embrace, Captain *Richmore* informed him and Mr. *Marshall*, of the approaching Happiness of his Friend the Major, and his own, and received their Congratulations upon it. Captain *Fitzgerald* then opened the deepest Recesses of his Heart, saying, the Height of his Ambition consisted in becoming his Relation, and his future Felicity, in his kind Approbation and Assistance: Adding, You must know, my Friend, the eldest of your amiable Cousins has inspired me with an honourable Passion for her; and at the same Time, I must acquaint you, that the Breast of my worthy Fellow-traveller burns with an honest Flame for the younger Sister.

Mr.



Mr. *Marshal*, continued he, on his Part intends a handsome Jointure shall attend his first Proposals. I am not so fortunate as to have an Estate in this Country, or indeed in any other, but as you are sufficiently ascertained of what I possess, all I can propose is, to purchase Lands in this Kingdom, for (if I am happy enough to succeed) I shall have no Thoughts of returning to *Ireland*, from whence I came so young. I should be a perfect Stranger in my native Country, having few surviving Relations, and fewer Friends there; by this Means I might be enabled to make a Settlement for an Estate of my own, to which I would willingly add the Lady's whole Fortune, which I have heard is eight Thousand Pounds in Money, besides a Moiety of an Estate in this County, of one Hundred and Fifty Pounds a Year.

These Proposals being just and honourable, Captain *Richmore* wished them both Success: Saying he not only approved thereof, but promised to recommend a Consideration of it to his Uncle  
and

214 THE SUPPOSED DAUGHTER;

and Aunt; and that nothing in his Power should be omitted, that could contribute to their Service. This prosperous Beginning of an Amour, with Sir *Robert's* and his Lady's Assent, obtained the same Day, created the utmost Joy. The Lovers would have made a Thousand Acknowledgements to Captain *Richmore*, would he have permitted them; as the Hopes they conceived were founded on the genteel Reception they had hitherto met with, and the free, open, and agreeable Behaviour of Women of Sense and Honour, without the least Mixture of the Prude or Affected.

As neither of the Gentlemen were above seven and twenty, there could be no Objection to their Ages, nor any to be found in their Persons, Address or Conversation. The amiable Character Captain *Richmore* gave of them, the honourable Conditions proposed at first, together with a general Approbation of the Family, removed many Obstacles commonly attending Treaties of this Kind, and left their Hopes of succeeding in the  
Ladies

Ladies Favours, in a fair and flourishing Posture.

Every concurring Circumstance seemed combined to make the Celebration of the two intended former Matches remarkably joyous; nor should it be forgotten, that honest Serjeant *Webb* came in for his Share of Happiness; for, after his Discharge from the Army, he modestly begged Captain *Richmore's* Opinion, whether his making Addresses to the Widow *Cordosa's* Daughter, could be stiled Insolence in him, since they were now assured of his being a Gentleman, and in Possession of his paternal Estate, by the Justice and Generosity of Sir *Robert Richmore*.

Although Captain *Richmore* seemed surprised at Mr. *Webb's* Request, he could not think they would be affronted by a Discovery of his Love, for he was satisfied, that both Madam *Cordosa* and her Daughter, had a high Regard for his Merit, and just Sense of his Services in *Spain*; having often heard them relate with Pleasure, the Obligations they  
lay

lay under to him on many Occasions : Notwithstanding, he advised him not to make any Advances till he had talked with the Widow.

Mr. *Webb*, soon after, was informed by Captain *Richmore*, that Madam *Cordosa* was so far from making any Objections to his Pretension, that she had declared to him, if her Daughter approved thereof (as she hoped she would) in Return for the many good Offices he had done them both, and particularly in the Preservation of their Lives, that she would use her utmost Endeavours to promote a Union so greatly to her Satisfaction ; and even promised, on the Day of Marriage, to put them into Possession of Half she was worth in the World ; and said, they might depend on enjoying the Remainder at her Decease. The young Lady being acquainted by her Mother of her Sentiments, shewed no Aversion to Mr. *Webb's* Addresses, as they had been several Months before well known to each other. In a little Time, all Preliminaries were settled, to the Satisfaction



tion of the benevolent Widow and her Daughter.

Lady *Richmore* having, with great Resignation, after her Recovery, received a perfect Information, that her dear supposed Daughter was no longer *Eleanora*, but *Maria*, the only Child of worthy Parents long since deceased, declared, that the surprizing and unexpected Change was not capable of producing the least Alteration in her Affection.

On the Day appointed for solemnizing the Nuptials of Captain *Richmore* with his adored *Maria*, and the Major with his beloved Widow; in the Morning, before they were performed, Sir *Robert Richmore* made the following Speech to the Company assembled on that joyful Occasion.

Ladies and Gentlemen, give me Leave to take this Opportunity to undeceive the World in a mistaken Opinion of *Eleanora's* being my Daughter. But altho' I solemnly declare she is not so, the Obligations I owed to the Baronet her

218    The SUPPOSED DAUGHTER ;

Father, and his Lady, deceased, together with her own Virtues and valuable Qualifications from an Infant, has created so true a paternal Love and Regard, that nothing on Earth can make an Addition to it, but her becoming this Day my Neice. Then, taking hold of her Hand, said to his Nephew, Receive her from me as the choicest of Heaven's Blessings below: She is the only lawful Issue of Sir *William Goodman*, Baronet, by his Lady, Miss *Maria Wilson*. As I revered their Persons, I shall ever lament the fatal Catastrophe that robbed the World of so much Virtue and Goodness. I shall only add, that I have the Honour of being Godfather to the fair Bride, and that she was baptized by the Name of *Maria*, after her Mother: And be assured, my lovely Neice, under that Name you are as equally dear to me, as when I believed you my dearest *Eleanora*.

Sir *Robert* then said so many agreeable Things of his Nephew, Major *Travanton*, and their Brides, as put them all to the Blush; nor did he stop his  
Com-

Commendations till he declared, he was not ashamed to own what a Monster of Avaricioufness and Cruelty he had many Years remained, and might, in all Probability, have continued so to this Time, had not the joint Endeavours of those worthy Persons proved fuccefsful in reclaiming him.

He begged the Company's Pardon for troubling them with fuch a long Harangue on the happy Day, but hoped he should be excused, as it proceeded from an Opinion, that Honour, Justice and Gratitude demanded it of him. He concluded, with wishing all Mankind might avoid the first Approaches of the Vices he had been unhappily guilty of, and which appeared so detestable in the Eyes of every confiderate Man; and thereby prevent those just Judgments, with which he and his Family had been most deservedly afflicted.

All Persons present, who were not in the Secret before, seemed amazed at Sir *Robert's* Declaration, and were quite at a Loss to know, whether they should

congratulate or condole with the Baronet on the Occasion ; or, indeed, in what Manner to address themselves to *Maria*, without giving Offence to either : However, this Embarrassment subsided, on the Entrance of more Company ; and presently after they set out for the Church. As it was near two Miles thither, they found the Road all the Way lined with Numbers of People. *Berwick*, and all the Villages many Miles round, appeared that Morning as Defarts ; the Applause and good Wishes of the Multitude, shewed themselves various Ways. Some strewed Flowers, others watered the Road ; and as they passed and repassed, all joined in a Petition for their Health, long Life and Prosperity.

The general Rejoicings on these Espousals, continued many Days, nor could a Countenance be observed that was not expressive of the highest Satisfaction and Pleasure. All the oppressive Actions of Sir *Robert* were buried in Oblivion, he having before made



made ample and full Restitution to all injured, and nothing was talked of, but the Virtues, Goodness, and Generosity of the happy Couples.

Not long after, Mr. *Webb* was married to Madam *Cordosa's* Daughter, with whom, and her Son-in-law, the Widow determined to spend the Remainder of her Days, he having fitted up a genteel Apartment for that Purpose. The whole Company continued above seven Weeks at Sir *Robert Richmore's*, who constantly opposed any Proposals tending to a Dissolution of the present Felicity they enjoyed; altho' 'Squire *Thurston*, his Lady, and Mr. *Maddox*, often pressed the Necessity of their Return to *Cornwall*. This gave an Opportunity to Major *Travani-*  
*on* to represent, that his long Absence from the Kingdom, absolutely required his Presence at home. Mr. *Marshal*, whose Amour with the youngest of the Miss *Richmores* was far advanced, also gave Reasons why his longer Stay at present might prove prejudicial to his Affairs, yet promised a speedy Return,

to renew the Happiness he enjoyed in so polite a Conversation. As Captain *Fitzgerald's* Resolution was to settle in the Country, he was quite easy ; having little Room to despair of the happy Issue of his Love. He declared, when his Friends went, he would attend them to *London* ; where he would remain no longer than a proper Time to transact his Business. At length it was finally agreed, that the Company should spend another Week at the Baronet's, and at the Expiration of which, they should all have free Liberty to depart.

The cruel Day of setting out arrived ; the Parting of such sincere Friends, though necessary, was nevertheless disagreeable. Reciprocal Promises passed between the Major and Captain *Richmore* of visiting each other, with their Wives, alternately each Summer. This Declaration was exceedingly pleasing to the female Friends, who rejoiced, that they should, notwithstanding their great Distance, enjoy one another's Society almost half their Time. This took off the keen  
Edge

Edge of Anxiety that would otherwise have attended a Separation; and it was agreed that Captain *Richmore* and his Lady were to begin, by taking a Journey into the West the ensuing Spring.

\*Squire *Thurston* observed, he and his Wife had been so kindly treated in the North, that he was so far from repenting his long Journey, that he was sure he should take it again, whenever Mrs. *Thurston* thought convenient to pay her Duty there. The two Miss *Richmores* had been prevailed upon to spend the Winter with Sir *Robert* and Lady *Richmore*, whose Behaviour and Adieus to the rest of the Company, were equally kind and courteous; tenderly embracing each of them at taking Leave.

Captain *Richmore*, with his beloved *Maria*, continued some Time longer at *Richmore-hall*, tho' their Seat, by their old Servant *Trusty's* Diligence, had been long ready for their Reception. However, in about three Weeks after the Departure of the Gentlemen, and Mrs. *Thurston*, they obtained Permission to fix  
their



their Residence therein; and by their Request, were accompanied to their House by their Cousins the Miss *Richmores*.

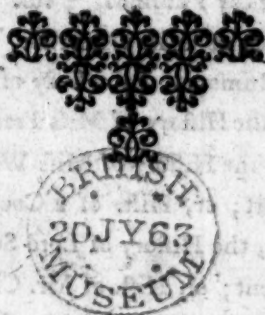
Captain *Fitzgerald* returned from *London* soon after, having finished his Affairs there; and found, his Friend *Marshall* arrived at Captain *Richmore's*, three Weeks before him; in which Time, he had so happily succeeded in his Addresses, that Marriage Settlements were actually drawing. This Event encouraged him to prosecute his own with such Vigour, that the other charming Sister soon consented to make him happy. He then proceeded to furnish a House already bought for him, within less than three Miles of Captain *Richmore's*, and by the Advice and Assistance of that Family, he made a Purchase of some Estates then on Sale, amounting in the Whole to near Five and Twenty Thousand Pounds. Little remains now to say, but that they had all the Pleasure to hear of their Friends safe Arrival in *Cornwall*.

We



We shall now leave these happy Friends to enjoy that substantial Bliss their firm Constancy well deserved; and conclude this uncommon Narrative with observing, many Instances throughout are sufficient to prove, that Faith, Truth, Honour and a Perseverance in just Principles, though often embarrassed with Disappointments and Misfortunes, will at last obtain a full Reward.

**F I N I S.**



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